



Coach Bill Hayes

'Tis the season to be jolly, and since it is let's start off this week with a few sports comments and happenings that have given this writer a chuckle or two in the last few days.

First, there's the comment made by Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt when talking about the Chiefs 2-12 season and the firing of two head coaches in less than a season. "I don't think the Chicago Bears are any better a football team talent-wise than the Chiefs," said Hunt. "Maybe a leadership factor is involved." Too bad Lamar doesn't have a Walter Payton in his backfield. Payton would take up a lot of the "lack of leadership" slack with a few 150 yard games. Back in 1975 when the Bears were making Payton their Number one pick who were the Chiefs drafting on the first round? The first person to send me a card with the answer to that will win a prize.

When you think about Bill Dooley the UNC head football coach when he failed to single out the injury of a star runningback Amos Lawrence as the main reason why the Tarheels were unable to beat Nebraska. "I don't want to use Amos as an excuse. He's obviously a great football player and I thought Doug Pascal did a good job for us as a replacement." Dooley must have forgotten that Carolina's two losses this season came with "Famous" Amos not in the backfield.

What about the Liberty Bowls Most Valuable Player (UNC quarterback Matt Kupec) being announced just before he committed his second turnover in the final quarter. That gave Nebraska the ball so sub quarterback Randy Garcia could turn it into his second touchdown pass, after a Kupec mistake, and claim the win for the Cornhuskers.

Or take a look at St. Louis Cardinal Head Coach Don Coryell's remarks when making a public apology for stating that Owner Bill Bidwell was a tightwad. Coryell went on to predict that the Cards would win only four games next season and two the following year. "I'd like to say something to Bill Bidwell," he stated. "I regret very much saying what I did in public expressing myself as I did. I'm a very poor loser. I had to blow up. I guess it's better to blow up than commit suicide. I thought it was an off-the-record conversation with a friend who also happened to be a sportswriter," he commented after the Cards had been eliminated from playoff contention by the Redskins. That's only good for a laugh if Coryell doesn't commit suicide after failing to blow up in the wake of Sunday's 17-7 loss to the Tampa Bay Bucs.

Finally, The Bucs got their jollies when they beat the New Orleans Saints after Saint quarterback Archie Manning had said it would be a disgrace to lose to the winless expansion club. "It's disgraceful," said the Bucs players as the final seconds ticked off the clock.

Here's wishing everybody a Merry Christmas even the fans of the Chicago Bears, Minnesota Vikings, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Oakland Raiders whom I pick to be eliminated from Super Bowl contention Saturday and Monday.

Four Rams Make All CIAA Academic Team

Four members of the 1977 CIAA championship WSSU football team were named to the conferences first annual All Academic team. The coaches now plan to make this an annual affair in recognition of the leagues outstanding scholar athletes. Hampton Institute led the list with seven team members being selected. Livingstone placed five players on the list. The four members of the WSSU squad on the list were, All-American center Robert Weeks, a senior Health and Physical Education major, Reginald Sherard, a senior defensive back who is majoring in Biology and plans to attend Med school. Sherard received the Chase award as the CIAA's outstanding scholar athlete last season. Junior linebacker Baxter Harrington, a Medical Technology major who did work with cells over the summer and discovered a new area of cell development, and Johnny Wilkerson, a sophomore defensive end who is majoring in Business Administration. Elizabeth City placed three football players on the team, while Norfolk State had two representatives. Virginia Union, Shaw, Fayetteville State, and Virginia State each had one player on the team.

Florida A & M Tops Among MBN Pollster

Washington, D.C. -- Florida A&M University, 11-0, and its first unbeaten season since 1961, was named the No. 1 ranked football team in the final Mutual Black Network football rankings for 1977.

The Rattlers, coached by Rudy Hubbard, ended the season last week with an impressive 37-15 Orange Blossom Classic win over ninth ranked Delaware State. In the final balloting by black college sportswriters and broadcasters, the Florida team nosed out Grambling for the top spot. Many of those casting votes cited Florida A&M's 31-28 upset victory over Tenn State as the deciding advantage for the Rattlers Tennessee State beat Grambling earlier in the season 26-7.

Last years Black College champions South Carolina State finished third, upstart Winston Salem State was fourth and Tennessee State rounded out the top five.

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WSSU Rams Move To First Place

Winston-Salem -- The Winston-Salem State Rams moved into first place in the CIAA Southern Division with Conference wins over Livingstone 91-73 and Shaw University 78-56. Four non-conference wins give the 1977 CIAA defending

Champions an overall record of 6-0 going into the Christmas break. Their non-conference wins were over Delaware State 111-58, High Point 83-71, North Carolina Central 80-66, and North Carolina A&T 84-74. Carlos Terry last year's

CIAA Tournament's Most Valuable Player is leading the team and the conference with a 28.6 scoring averages. He is getting strong support from Reginald Gaines (14.5 ppg) and Mike Robinson (12.1 PPG). The Rams would like to regain their regular season CIAA title from the St. Augustine's Falcons.

The next appearance of the Rams will be in the Winston-Salem Holiday Festival on December 30th and 31st when they will serve as hosts to Delaware State, Elizabeth City and South Carolina State.

Bears Drop 6th Straight

Raleigh, N.C. - The Shaw University Bears, after winning their first two games, have now dropped six straight, losing four times last week. A close look at their schedule, however, could explain some reasons why.

The Bears, under new Head Coach Ira Mitchell, are basically a freshman oriented team, though there are some experienced players out there. This, plus facing the three top teams in the CIAA, has a lot to do with it. The Bears, playing their first home game this season, took on the Panthers of Virginia Union University on Wednesday, December 7 in the Raleigh Civic Center.

Shaw got off to a good start, getting the lead behind the inside play of big 7'1 Jake Rodgers, who took control of the boards, and outside play of Ronald Cash, who, along with Phillip Holmes, kept Union out of their offense.

John Waller out-leaped Shaw's Mike Heard under the Shaw basket, drawing the one-and-one with :29 remaining. Calmly he hit both shots to put the game away. Waller led the Panthers with 25, followed by Charles Benson and Larry Holmes with 14 each. The Mike Heard led Shaw with 13, followed by Jake Rodgers with 12, plus 13 big rebounds.

Shaw traveled to Durham on Friday and Saturday, December 9 and 10, to participate in the Bull City Invitational Tournament. Their first foe was Fayetteville State, one of

the teams they beat in Rocky Mount. The final score was Fayetteville 89, Shaw 68. Edward Jefferson led all scorers with 31, followed by Kenny Howell with 14, Dwight Marley with 13, and Jeff Ballard with 11. Ernest Perkins led Shaw with 17. Claudius Jones added 14. Jake Rodgers, who had his nose broken in the game, pulled down 12 rebounds for Shaw in just 12 minutes of play.

Saturday night, the Bears met the Eagles of N.C. Central in the consolation game. The Eagles led 43-42 at halftime, and won the game, 87-81. The final two points came on the one-and-one shooting of Earl Sanders after the game was over. Ronald James led the Eagles with 29, followed by John Roberts' 18, Audwin Saunders' 14, and Edward Roper's 13. Ernest Perkins had 16, as did Willie Murphy. Claudius Jones had 12, and Walter Harper added 10 for Shaw. Playing their third game in as many days, the Bears took on Winston Salem in Raleigh's Civic Center in a 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon tilt. The Rams, behind 6'5 forward Carlos Terry, were methodical, but could not pull away from the Bears in the first half, holding only a 30-24 lead. It was Terry's 6-7 from the floor and 6-7 from the line that kept Winston Salem

Women's Basketball Team Off To Start



Brenda Whitfield Laurice Jenkins

The WSSU Women's Basketball Team is off to a fast start this year. At this point in the season the Rams are 8-0, with victories over North Carolina Central 93-68, Shaw University 70-52, Gardner-Webb 102-82, Bennett College 77-51, Livingstone College 83-63, Guilford College 88-70, Greensboro College 99-51 and Shaw University 93-50. The Lady Rams are an improved squad this year. The return of seasoned players and additional talent on the bench has made the Rams a much stronger team. The Rams compiled an 18-6 record last season with Brenda Winfield leading the way with a 24 point per game average. Brenda was followed closely by Carla Kincaid and Laurice Jenkins who averaged 20 and 17 points per game. Carla Kincaid was also the leading rebounder, pulling down 16 boards per game. Brenda See Women, Page 10

Mutual Black Network Names

Hayes "Coach Of The Year"

WASHINGTON, DC -- Winston-Salem State University head football coach Bill Hayes, was named Mutual Black Network, Black College Coach-of-the-year, for 1977.

Hayes, a former offensive line coach at Wake Forest before moving on to Winston-Salem State in 1976, nudged out last year's coach-of-the-year, Willie Jeffries, of South Carolina State, and Rudy Hubbard of Florida A&M in balloting by 20 black college coaches. Jeffries and Hubbard were tied for second, while Grambling coach Eddie Robinson, who received the honor in 1975, was third, and Ed Wyche of Delaware State was fourth.

When Hayes took over at Winston-Salem two-years ago, the school had

S.C. State Dominate Mutual Black College All-American Team

Washington, D.C. - For the second straight year Grambling and South Carolina State placed more players on the team than any other black college. For Coach Eddie Robinson's Louisiana Tigers, Williams was joined on the team by his two top notch receivers Carlos Pennywell and Mike Moore, along with defensive end Russell Hall, a strapping 6'8" 231 lb. senior from Houston, Texas.

South Carolina State divided their four players evenly with runningback Rickey Anderson, who became the schools first one thousand yard rusher in history, and tackle Al Lester on offense, and end Anthony Clay and cornerback Tommy Brown on defense. Jackson State University of Mississippi, placed three players on the team, runningback Rickey Patton, a repeater from 1975, tackle Lou Bullard, and cornerback Charles Williams.

WSSU's Cornelius Washington who tied for the national lead in interceptions with 12 was named to the squad. Williams and Howard Napier along with Alcorn State Linebacker Johnny Thomas were the only repeaters from the 1976 team.

Mutual Black Network Coach-Of-The-Year Awards

- 1973 John Merritt Tennessee State University
- 1974 Marino Casem Alcorn State University
- 1975 Eddie Robinson Grambling State University
- 1976 Willie Jeffries South Caro. State University
- 1977 Bill Hayes Winston-Salem State University
- Willie Jeffries South Carolina State University