

14 MEAC Stars Picked by Pros

By Robert Eller
Sports Editor

The Mid Eastern Athletic Conference had 14 league stars to ink pro contracts in the past few weeks.

League champion South Carolina State led the way with five players signing their names to professional agreements.

Delaware State, although not known as a power in the conference, none the less had four players to sign. N.C. A&T had three members of last year's squad inked. Two Howard gridgers were signed.

Only one of the 14 were drafted. Dwaine "Pee Wee" Board, a 6-5 240 defensive end who earned all-conference and All-American honors at North Carolina A&T was picked by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the third round.

His sidekick on the Aggie defensive front line, defensive tackle Lucien Nibbs, went with the Philadelphia Eagles as a free agent while

linebacker George Small joined Board in Pittsburgh as a free agent.

South Carolina State did not have a player picked in the draft but still had five players signed. 1977 All-**MEAC** runningback Charles Burgess, who was out most of last season with an injury signed a standard contract with the Montreal Canadians of the Canadian Football League. (The highly selective Oakland Raiders took two of Burgess' top blockers in lineman Bobby Moore and Arthur Prescott and also signed defensive back Rufus Bess. All inked as free agents.

The Dallas Cowboys' computer must have seen something that made its reels spin since the Cowboys grabbed record setting pass receiver Steve Wilson and defensive back Richard Massey of Howard.

The Cowboys also signed South Carolina State defensive tackle Walt Sullivan.

Delaware State's free

agent signees were tight end Jerome Culbrest by Oakland, defensive back Jerome Culbrest by Oakland, defensive back Jerome Carter by the Buffalo bills, running back Anthony Jones by the New York Giants and defensive back Thomas Douglas who joined Burgess in Montreal.

Over the years, the NFL has picked up some fine talent from the league including Houston's Elvin Bethea of A&T, Willie Taylor who went from A&T to be a standout defensive back for the San Francisco 49ers, middle linebacker Harry Carson of the New York Giants from South Carolina State and a host of others.



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Tennis Team Dominates

By Roberts Eller
Sports Editor

The Winston Salem Smokers tennis team clinched at least a time for the Southeastern Racquet Association conference championship this past weekend by whipping the second place Charlotte All Stars 24-9.

Mixed doubles partners Conita Hunt and David Lash Jr. had a stirring doubles match with the Charlotte duo that featured one of the country's top young mens players before winning.

The Smokers can now win the title outright by beating fourth place Raleigh Sunday at Hanes school.

The Smokers under George Johnson have a 3-0

overall record having won all their senior matches and are 2-1 in the junior competition, after losing to the undefeated junior team of Charlotte 12-0 last week.

Charlotte is 3-2 overall with Norfolk standing in third with a 1-1 mark. Raleigh is tied for that spot with the Norfolk squad. Charleston, S.C. has a 2-3 mark while Gastonia is 0-4.

The SRA will determine its junior representatives to the American Tennis Association's National Championships on Sunday July 15 in Norfolk, Va.

Each team is allowed to send one junior boy and one junior girl to the SRA junior Masters Tournament. Play will begin at 9 a.m. following a breakfast meeting of conference officials.

CIAA

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they would participate in. Harvey Hearly, head basketball coach and Athletic Director at St. Aug. said, "the new clause gives us a choice of how we want to use our resources. We feel that our athletic program meets our objectives as is."

Another school's representative disagreed with Hearly however saying, "I think Coach Gaines (WSSU Athletic Director) was right in asking that all schools have programs in the three major sports. Right now St. Aug. is dominating the spring sports while the rest of us struggle to provide a balanced program and spend a great deal of our budget on football they can use that money to lead up in track, golf and tennis. If this league is ever going to be balanced, everybody has to eat from the same table."

Morgan State, said one CIAA official, "just didn't show the kind of interest we would like to have from a school in our league. They didn't apply, but the feeling some of us get is that they feel they can come back any time they want and this is not the case. I

think it will be extremely difficult for them to get in now because they would be the odd team and we in the CIAA don't want to be taken lightly. We run a tight ship here and we don't want anybody who is not totally committed to the CIAA."

NEWS OF SPORTS



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