

# Black On Sports



Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

All the preparations should be finished now. The final cuts have been made, the deals to fill holes concluded, and the experimenting over.

The beginning of the 1981 National Football League regular season is now at hand.

The "playing for keeps" begins this Saturday when the Tampa Bay Bucs entertain the Minnesota Vikings in the season's kickoff encounter.

It will be a big game for both teams. The Bucs, after winning the NFC Central Division title in '79, fell to 5-10-1 last year, bad enough to tie Green Bay for the cellar of the division. Meanwhile the Vikes claimed the title with a 9-7 slate.

The Bucs scored the least points of any team in the NFL last year and their great defense yielded 371 points, only three NFC teams allowed more.

Because of the closeness of teams in the Central Division, (any of the five teams could win the division) it is an early key game.

As for predictions this season, well I guess I'll give it one more shot.

Starting with the AFC this writer looks for the New England Pats to finally get it together and win the Eastern Division. Miami and Buffalo will battle for a wild card spot but neither will make it.

In the Central Division the Steelers will come back to beat out the tough Browns for the title but the Browns will make the playoffs as a wild card team.

San Diego will win the West with Oakland claiming a wild card spot. The Chargers will win the playoffs and wind up as the AFC representative in the Super Bowl.

As for the NFC, the Cowboys will nip the Eagles for the division title with the Eagles getting a wild card spot. In the Central the pick here is the Bears with everybody so close that it will take a number of tie breaking rules to pick them.

Atlanta should win the West with the Rams barely edging the 49ers for a wild card berth. Dallas will win that conference title and then lose to the Chargers in a high scoring title game.

A few surprise predictions to look for are the Houston Oilers failing to play .500 ball and Earl Campbell failing to win the rushing title. Another big flop this year will be the Buffalo Bills who will find the going tough as will the Denver Broncos.

As for the AFC's comers look for the Dolphins to be right in the thick of things.

In the NFC the biggest surprises will be the Saints and the 49ers as both will play tough against the Falcons and Rams. In fact they may knock the loser of the division out of a wild card spot.

The Redskins will improve slightly and the Giants and Cardinals will again look up at everybody else. Green Bay had a fine preseason but by mid year they will have folded.

Coaches who will probably get the ax are Jack Patters at Seattle, Ed Briles in Houston, Bart Starr in Green Bay and surprise, Ray Malivasi in Los Angeles.



## Sets World Record

UPI Photo

Zurich, Switzerland: American Renaldo Nehemiah applauds himself after setting a World Record in the 110 meters Hurdles here 08/19 with a time of 12.93 seconds at the International track and field meeting.

## Budweiser Offers Scholarships At BET Black College Games

ST. LOUIS, MO. -- Outstanding offensive and defensive players selected from black college football games televised by the Black Entertainment Television (BET) this season will have \$11,000 in scholarships awarded by Budweiser in their names to their schools, it was announced by Victor M. Julien, director of market development.

Budweiser will provide the scholarship funds to black colleges, with \$500 awarded in each player's name. The players will receive trophies acknowledging their accomplishments.

BET, the only black-oriented cable television satellite network, kicks off its 1981 black college football season Friday, September 18, with the telecast from Shreveport, LA of the annual rivalry between two Southwestern Athletic Conference giants, the Grambling Tigers and the Alcorn State Scalping Braves.

Budweiser is a product of Anheuser-Busch, Inc., the major sponsor of black college football on BET. Anheuser-Busch also brews Michelob, Michelob Light, Budweiser Light, Natural Light, and Busch, and imports the German beer Wurzbürger Hofbrau.

"We again are very de-

lighted to be involved with the BET production of black college football," said Julien.

"Our scholarship presentations will provide us with the dual opportunity to recognize some of the finer student-athletes in America and to further support black higher institutions of learning," Julien added.

According to BET president Robert L. Johnson, BET will cover 11 games featuring the nation's historically black colleges, between September 18 and November 27, including the Bayou Classic in New Orleans where Grambling meets Southern University.

"BET will show subscribers some of the best college athletes playing some of the best college football in this country today. It is gratifying to note that a major corporation like Anheuser-Busch is going beyond its sponsorship of black college football telecasts, and providing scholarship funds for these colleges, and at the same time calling attention to these great athletes," Johnson said.

BET is the only television network providing seasonal coverage of black college football nationally.

Charlie Neal, sportscaster for WJBK-TV in Detroit, and Lem Barney, former Detroit Lions all-pro cornerback, will handle play-by-

## At N.C. A&T

# 5 Named To Hall Of Fame

GREENSBORO\* NC -- Five more persons will be added to the illustrious honorees roll of the North Carolina A&T State University Sports Hall of Fame.

Catherine Bonner, presently the administrative assistant to the athletic director at the university; Merle Code, former all-American defensive back and professional star; Estelle Harper, former track and basketball standout; Hornsby Howell, former head football coach and presently assistant athletic director at the university, and Richard Westmoreland a football standout at A&T as well as the National Football League will be officially inducted on September 11, 1981 in a special ceremony to be held in the Carolina Room at the Downtowner Motor Inn in Greensboro, NC.

The A&T Sports Hall of Fame now totals 51 persons in various categories and represents a variety of outstanding student-athletes, who have achieved success not only on the collegiate level but in the professional careers as well," said Joe Williams, director of Alumni Affairs at the university and also a member of the Sports Hall of Fame.

Bonner's career at A&T spans four decades and over thirty-five years of service in the perpetuation of the university's athletic endeavors.

During that time she has worked closely with four athletic directors and was an integral part of the growth process which wit-

nessed A&T's move from Division II to Division I status in the NCAA.

Until recently, defense has been the name of the game at A&T and Merle Code is generally recognized as the most exciting defensive back ever to play at the university.

While at A&T, Code was named to the Kodak Associated Press, United Press, and NAIA All-America teams. His excellence did not end on the

football field, however, as he graduated from the university in 1970 with high academic honors.

After an outstanding seven year professional football career in Canada, Code entered the University of South Carolina law school, where he was elected president of the law student body making him the only black in the university's history to hold such a

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## ASK BARRY

By Barry Cooper

Q. I've been reading your black college previews. Can you tell me what teams are likely to be strongest among the other schools?--Michael Bryant, Birmingham, Ala.

A. I supposed you're speaking of the so-called "big time" schools. That's no problem, though. Here's my major-college Top 10: 1. Michigan; 2. Southern California; 3. Texas; 4. Oklahoma; 5. Notre Dame; 6. North Carolina; 7. Penn State; 8. Nebraska; 9. Alabama and 10. UCLA.

Q. I see where Herc Herschel Walker of Georgia is getting a lot of publicity. I'm wondering if any black colleges had shot -- or even tried -- to recruit him?--Angela Simpkins, New Orleans, La.

A. A host of black college teams wrote Walker, but none of them had much hope of landing him. There was just too much competition from bigger schools. Walker, from Wrightsville, Ga., was recruited by the biggest schools in the country. It came down to Georgia, Alabama and Southern California. No black schools were in the running at the end.

Q. Can a college football player leave school early for the pros?--James Smith, Miami, Fla.

A. No. That's against National Football League rules. Only pro, I can ever think of who did that was Stanford's Jim Plunkett, who is now with the Oakland Raiders. Plunkett asked to be drafted early because both of his parents were blind and he needed the money. The NFL said okay, and Plunkett was drafted by New England even though he had a year of eligibility remaining.

I haven't heard anything about Tyrone McGriff, the former Florida A&M player who is with the Pittsburgh Steelers. What's he doing?--Marvin Stinson, Jackson, Miss.

A. McGriff, an offensive tackle, has been slowed by a slight thigh injury. It'll probably be a couple of weeks before he's ready to play.

(Got a sports question? Just write "Ask Barry," P.O. Box #86, Tallahassee, Fla. 32302. Questions will be answered in this space).

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