

Norfolk State Controversy Continues

by Barry Cooper
Sports Correspondent

For a while, it looked as if Norfolk State basketball coach Lucias Mitchell had dodged the bullet. Mitchell, said to have mistreated his players by verbally abusing the team and putting them through over-demanding drills, was given a vote of confidence recently by the Norfolk State administration.

School officials said, Mitchell, one of the winningest coaches in the history of black college basketball, would keep his job, despite the allegations.

But now the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, of which Norfolk State is a member, has promised to conduct its own inquiry into the charges. This could mean more trouble for Mitchell, who has come under heavy criticism.

In fact, the CIAA has already launched its investigation.

"It is regrettable that an action of this type is necessary," said CIAA commissioner Bob Moorman. "Because of the extremely high visibility of the alleged problems, I feel that the CIAA must conduct its own investigation. I feel the integrity of the CIAA, as well as Norfolk State University, is at stake."

The CIAA investigation was sparked by present and former Norfolk State players, who have complained publicly about Mitchell. But after an investigation by school officials, Norfolk State president Harrison Wilson

announced that Mitchell would be retained.

That ruling didn't sit well with the Norfolk media, and it didn't go over well with some members of the Norfolk State basketball team. Several wrote letters to the news media and to the university, again complaining of what they called "inhumane and demeaning treatment" by Mitchell last season.

Two players left the team recently. They are Louis Thomas and Tim Allen. Thomas was captain of last year's team.

Mitchell has a 61-28 record in three years at Norfolk State. He was absent from practice last week because of the controversy. Mitchell, 46, has a career record of 253-47. He also has coached at Kentucky State and Norfolk State.

The CIAA is expected to wrap up its investigation by mid-November.

NEWS ITEM: FAMU Grad Gets \$250,000 Award. Andre White, a former Florida A&M and San Diego Chargers football player, has just won a \$250,000 lawsuit against the Chargers.

White, who played under Florida A&M Coach Jake Gaither in the sixties, received the quarter-million-dollar settlement 13 years after suffering a career-ending knee injury.

White testified in court that the knee injury was much more serious than the Chargers would admit. He said the team called the injury a bad sprain, and White was sent home for the summer to recuperate.

But during the summer, White's knee began to swell and discolor from torn cartilage and ligaments.

After a grievance was filed, NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle ruled the Chargers owed White a full season's pay and corrective surgery. "I waited nine months and I didn't have any operation," White said.

Tired of waiting, White took to the courts and finally won after a 13-year battle.

White says he remembers the play that put him out of pro football.

"I got hurt against the Kansas City Chiefs when some guy clipped me," he said. "I was hurting and all they (Chargers) could think about was whether or not I could play the second half."

"Sid Gillman (the San Diego coach at the time) was heartless. If you were hurt, he had no use for you. He was so different from my college coach (Gaither). Gaither was like a father to me. When they (San Diego) saw I couldn't play, they released me."

So serious was White's injury that he came out of the operation with 60 percent disability in his right leg.

"I can get along all right as long as I don't move laterally," he says. "I'll be fine. I'm just worried about the young athlete that has the delusions of playing in the NFL. I don't want this to happen to them."

Howard Drops To 7-2-2

The Bison soccer team dropped to 7-2-2, after tying UDC, 0-0, last Tuesday, and losing to Division III power, Averett College, 1-0, last weekend.

After reeling off six straight victories in the early season, the Bison have lost two, tied two and won one of their last five games.

"We lost some of our consistency during those games," recalls coach Keith Tucker. "This week in practice, we are going to

work on everything, especially shooting. The team is just a little off target, but I have confidence that they will pull together."

Howard, which was ranked number one in the Mid-Atlantic Region and as high as seventh nationally, now has dropped to number three in the Mid-Atlantic and out of the national poll. The Bison will travel to Alderson-Broaddus on Oct. 31, before returning home to host Old Dominion on Nov. 4 at Howard Stadium.

Premier Practice Toughest Ever

LORMAN, MS-- The runners are still running, the tacklers are still tackling, but nevertheless, Davey Whitney's basketball team hit the courts yesterday.

The first day of practice for the college basketball season was met with enthusiasm at Alcorn State University, the defending co-champions of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). For the Braves, the Alcorn State coach called it "their toughest first-day practice ever."

"That was probably the hardest opening day practice we've ever had," Whitney stated. "But the squad is in real good shape and we're pleased with the way things went. We have a bunch of people who're aggressive."

Alcorn State's opening day drills, as well as subsequent workouts, will concentrate heavily on individual and team defense, rebounding and ballhandling, according to Whitney. With the graduation of stalwart center Eddie Baker, though, it's the defense that may be the key to the 1981-82 season.

"We have a lot of offense,

but we must balance it with good defense," Whitney noted. "The keys to our season will be the development of a center and how well we play defense."

Heading the list of Brave returnees from last year's 17-12 team is All-SWAC forward Albert Irving, a 6-7 senior from Natchez. Irving, who has been scouted by professional scouts, averaged 17.1 points and 9.0 rebounds a game last year. The leader of the Braves' line-up, who has been hampered by a leg operation, said he's optimistic about the prospects for his team.

"We opened up with a hard practice and I think that's an indication of things to come," Irving said. "The SWAC race is going to be tough, plus we have a tough schedule. So I know that we have a lot of improvements to make."

In the conference race, Street and Smith's College Basketball Handbook writers have tabbed Alcorn as the team to beat. Houston Chronicle reporter W. H. Stickney, Jr. wrote, "The Braves of Alcorn this year will establish stability at the top of the standings as they run away with yet

another outright championship."

While Whitney isn't making any predictions this early in practice, he did say, "We just hope we play to our potential. If that results in a lot of wins, then that's great."

"Even though we're picked No. 1 in the pre-season

Howard Organizes Women's Basketball

Second-year head women's basketball coach Sanya Tyler welcomed eight returning veterans and five newcomers to the beginning of fall practice last week.

"I'm very pleased with the condition that the girls returned in. They seem to have worked hard during the off-season and ready to have a good year," says Tyler.

Howard finished the 1981 season with 11-14 record, while winning six of their last eight games and winning the Catholic Invitational Tournament. However, four of the team's top scorers were lost to graduation.

"We lost a lot of our

poll in our conference, that doesn't mean a thing," the coach continued. "I don't know what the chances are, but we're still champions and we certainly won't give it up without a fight."

Alcorn's season starts on December 1, 1981 at the University of Missouri.

scoring power, but I'm confident that the newcomers will help make up for that," says Tyler. The leading returning scorer will be point-guard Blondell "BeBe" Curnell, who averaged 11.0 points per game last season.

The Bisonets will be looking for scoring power from newcomers Claudia Eaton and Sherry Van Pelt; both are transfers with excellent scoring ability. Eaton stands 6-3 and can play either the strong-forward or center position, while Van Pelt, at 5-11, averaged 21.0 points and 10 rebounds at Atlantic City Community College.

FISHING

by George Booie

If you are storing fishing equipment and boats, now is the time to winterize those items. Especially the motors: those being a bit complicated for tinkering. For the best performance, motor should be winterized by the dealers that sell them. The saving that one may gain from do-it-yourself jobs are not worth the inconveniences that could be experienced with a breakdown.

In some areas, fishing has become so sophisticated that it is necessary to use handbooks to get the most out of your equipment. Experiments have been conducted to determine which color lines will increase one's catch. There are also certain positions that one must hold a reel when setting the hook. Further there is the use of electronic components that will insure the locating of fish.

When I see all of this specific gear and acquaint myself with the expressions like Techsonic Transducers and Fish Locations, I feel mighty proud that I studied electronics and worked in same at the National Bureau Of Standards. Then I wonder why I try so hard to lure and hook a lunker bass; fail, then see a ten year old fisherman come along and take the fish on a cane pole. I have experienc-

ed several occasions where I was out-fished by a kid with a cane pole.

Sometimes I think about the fun that I have missed while trying to master sophisticated equipment;

when I know that the best crappie fishing is accomplished with a cane pole, a strip of cut bait or a small minnow. Don't let these experiences alter your thinking about the

finny sport. There is nothing wrong about looking pretty and well equipped when you go on a lake. You won't be alone when it comes to returning with an empty stringer.

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