



An Eagle Soars

Kirk Scales (22) of East Forsyth beats Parkland's Robert McIlwaine to the basket in a recent game between two of the area's top teams. East Forsyth won this one 62-54 in a mild upset (photo by James Parker).

Gaines

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"I wasn't pleased with the CBA," he says. "In Europe, the players are taken care of. You have a trainer who looks out for injuries and the league there is run very well. But in the CBA, a trainer only shows up on game days. You have to tape your own ankles for practice, play in high school gyms and the money is not there. Most of the players in the CBA are basketball junkies. They can't do anything else, and the coaches and owners know it. They are just former players, most of them from major colleges, who weren't prepared to do anything but play ball, and they are treated as such."

Gaines left the Lancaster club after he had to go to a doctor on his own to have a sprained wrist treated, but now he says he will rejoin the league with the Reno franchise.

"I'm going to play out this year with Reno if they are a decent franchise," he says. "Otherwise, I'll come home and wait for next season. I will probably go back to Europe next year if I get the right offer. Of course, I'd love to get another shot at the NBA, but the CBA is not for me. I won't become a basketball junkie."

"If I go back to Europe, I might play for five, maybe six more years because I really love the game and the money is good. But I know my future is not secure in basketball and I hope to coach or work with the handicapped eventually. I have already realized that basketball is a business and if I can't make a decent living at it, I'll just put my sneakers away."

Threats

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FAMU since the pre-integration days of legendary ex-coach Alonzo "Jake" Gaither.

The Rattlers went hard after big linemen, kids in the 6-foot-4, 260-pound range. FAMU expects to get a few, and also expects to sign four junior college players from Southern California. Two of the players are said to be of Samoan descent, and if they sign with the Rattlers, it could mark the first time Somoans have played for a black university.

MEAC Nearing Parity

For a long time, Howard and North Carolina A&T have dominated basketball in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, but the tide is turning. Heading into the final week of January, Florida A&M and Delaware State were atop the league standings.

What this means for the MEAC is parity; any of six of the league's teams seems capable of doing well in conference play. Only Bethune-Cookman College appears to be outclassed.

What this also means is that the MEAC may have its most interesting tournament in years. With more teams capable of winning it all, the more attractive the league's tournament should be.

And it would appear that the added interest could not come at a better time. Hurt by poor attendance in Winston-Salem, the MEAC tourney moves to nearby Greensboro this year.

USFL, NCAA At Peace

Some had expected a full-scale war, but so far, it has been nothing more than smiles and handshakes.

The United States Football League held its first draft recently, and for the most part, the new league chose players who had completed their playing eligibility, but had at least a semester of school left. And because the USFL season begins in March, those players would have to drop out of school.

That raised some eyebrows, but the USFL apparently eased all fears by announcing it would pay the tuition of those players who wished to return to school next fall, after the USFL season is finished.

Some college coaches, including Michigan's Bo Schembechler, had promised not to cooperate with the USFL because the new league would be taking players out of school.

Much of that animosity seems to have been erased, now, however.

Black College Briefs

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ferences have since been resolved. The Rattlers figure to have one of the toughest schedules in the country for '83. In addition to TSU, FAMU also must deal with South

Carolina State, Jackson State, Southern and Bethune-Cookman College.

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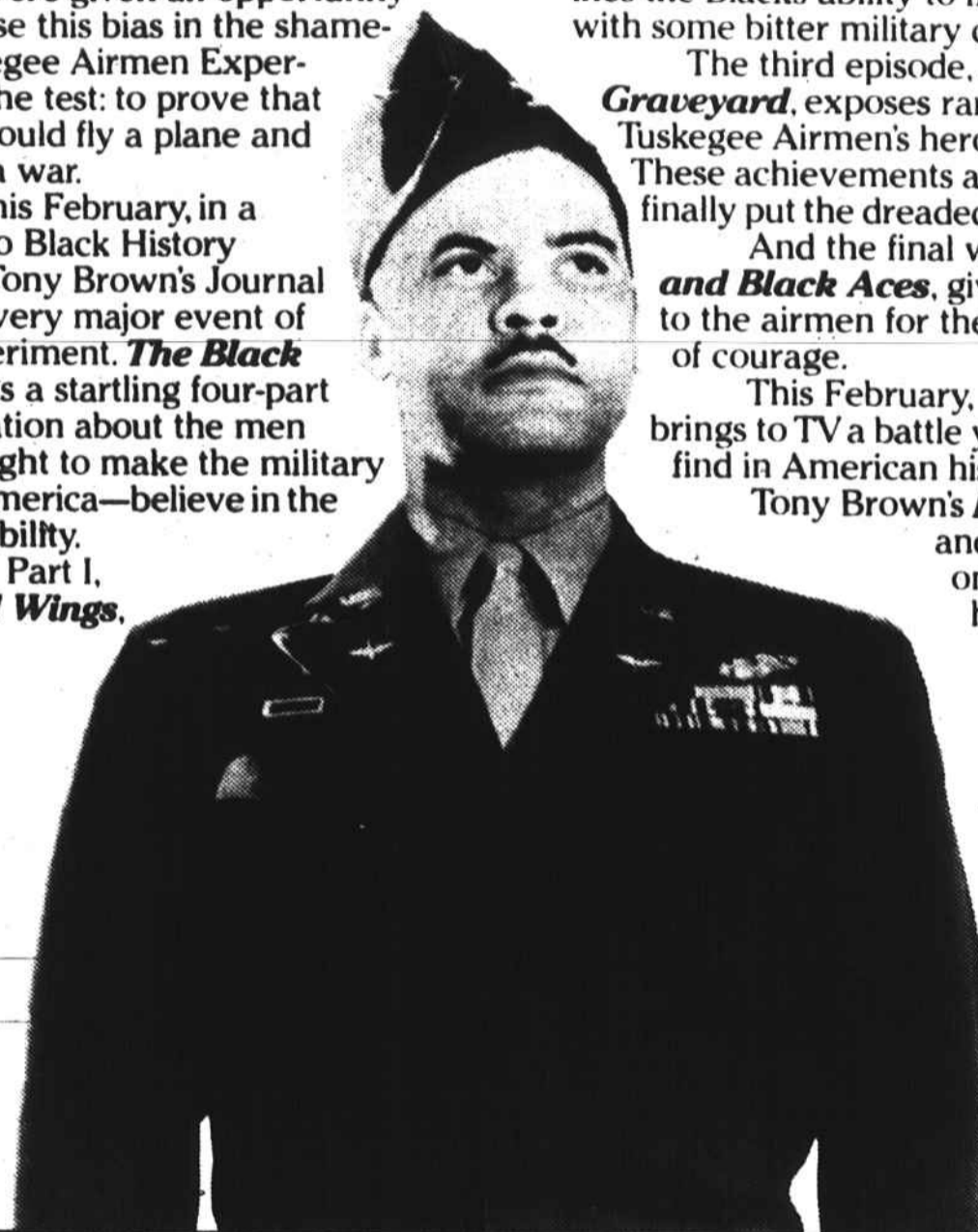
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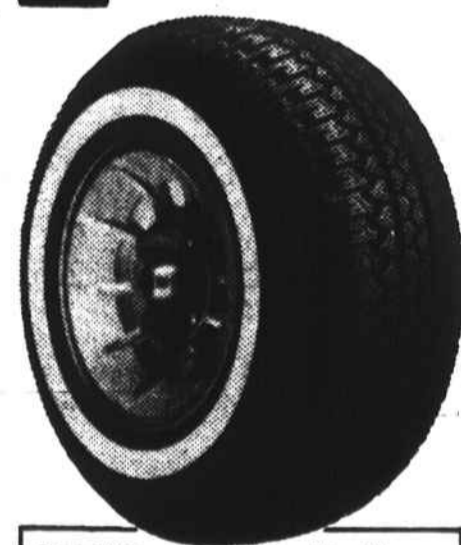


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