

# sports

## Black College Coaches React To Walker's Move To Pro Ranks

By BARRY COOPER  
Syndicated Columnist

When the University of Georgia's Herschel Walker announced he had indeed signed a multi-million dollar contract with the new United States Football League, shockwaves swept through the college ranks.

Coach after coach criticized the move, calling it bad for college football.

Ray Perkins, the University of Alabama coach, even went as far as to say that the USFL could ruin college football if it continues to raid the sport for undergraduates.

Perkins' theory may be a little farfetched, though. After all, college basketball continues to prosper even though the NBA routinely drafts underclassmen.

Big-time college football is not so squeaky clean, anyway. Almost every year, a major college is slapped with probation by the NCAA for violating recruiting rules as well as other regulations.

And a handful of other big-time schools are showing their greed by suing the NCAA over control of their television rights.

At big schools, football is big business, and Walker stands head and shoulder above all other collegians. This writer has no doubt he exercised the proper business decision to take the estimated \$8.5 million from the New Jersey Generals.

Still, the move could have a rippling effect on college football, including the smaller colleges. What if Jackson State running back Sylvester Stamps thinks he is ready for the pros even though he is just a junior? What if Florida A&M wide receiver Ray Alexander decides to skip his senior year? What if Alcorn State offensive tackle Clyde Speaks decides to do the same thing?

Would it be a good decision for them?

Perhaps not. After all, there may never be another player to command the type of money Walker did.

Contacted in the wake of Walker's signing, five black

college coaches expressed concern over the matter, but not alarm.

"I thought it was inevitable," said Joe Redmond of Texas Southern. "I saw it happening last year. But I think a guy like Herschel is the kind of guy who has the athletic and academic ability to survive. I still feel like he can go back to college and get his degree."

Larry Little, head coach at Bethune-Cookman College, and a former all-pro guard in the National Football League, said Walker made the right decision.

"With the type of money he received, you can't blame him for signing," said Little.

Little, just starting his first year at B-CC, said he would urge one of his players to leave school early if the player had been offered a large sum by a pro team.

"I wouldn't want that to happen to one of my players, but you can't tell a kid to turn down a lot of money," he said.

Florida A&M Coach Rudy Hubbard said he would take a similar posture.

"If I were Herschel Walker and offered that kind of money, I would have taken it," he said. "I think it was good for Herschel, but it wasn't good for the average Joe. What could happen is that you could have some guys who think they are better than they really are and some of these kids might come out early and things might not turn out well for them."

That seemed the biggest worry among the coaches contacted -- that there might be a number of kids who fall prey to the USFL rather than getting rich by joining it.

Added Delaware State's Joe Purzycki: "I could see a 19- or 20-year-old kid leaving college, joining a new league, getting cut and then, with his eligibility lost, not finishing school. That's what scares me."

Hopefully, the USFL will establish some firm guidelines as to how it will treat underclassmen.

But for players of, or even near, Walker's ability, there is but one choice: Take the money and run.

### Black College Sports

## Groups Rally Against Proposal

By BARRY COOPER  
Syndicated Columnist

This Proposition 48 might not last after all. At least, that's this columnist's opinion, judging from the backlash the idea has received since it was introduced several weeks ago.

Proposition 48, in case you are not tuned in to such matters, calls for college athletes, starting in 1986, to score at least 700 on their SAT tests, finish high school

with at least a 2.0 average and take certain classes while in high school, such as math and science.

At first glance, it does not seem such a big deal for a prospective student-athlete to graduate from high school with a 2.0 and make less than 50 percent on his Scholastic Aptitude Test.

But Proposition 48 has become a controversial ruling. Research has indicated that such a rule would keep many black youngsters out of big-time college athletics, where

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### The CIAA Falls

Greg Hines (42) of Hampton Institute, 1983 CIAA champions, goes up high for a shot in the recent tournament. But the Pirates' hopes of a NCAA Division II championship were dashed by conference foe St. Augustine's College in the first round of the playoffs last week in Washington, D.C. The Falcons were then knocked off by the defending national champion University of D.C. Firebirds, leaving no CIAA teams in the tournament (photo by Joe Daniels).

### Baseball Preview

## East Will Be The Team To Beat

By EDWARD HILL JR.  
Staff Writer

Coaches who are favored to win their conferences usually have a convenient habit of downplaying their team's chances. They can often cite dozens of areas of weaknesses, even when there aren't any.

But East Forsyth Coach Ron Jessup has chosen not to follow tradition.

"I usually like to poormouth my teams," says Jessup. "But this year, I really like our chances of being a strong contender for the conference title."

Jessup has plenty reason for his optimism. He returns seven starters from last year's squad that finished 9-8. The won-loss mark is deceiving because the Eagles lost six games by one run.

East Forsyth has good hitting, excellent speed and superb pitching. When Jessup talks about his team's hitting prowess, he gets goose bumps. Senior third baseman-pitcher Chuck Williard and rightfielder Joey Weavil are as potent a one-two punch as you'll find in state 4-A ball.

The 6-2, 185-pound Williard can hit for average (.343 batting average) and power (three homers). Weavil (.348

is more of a singles hitter.

"Speed is one thing you can't substitute," says Jessup. "You can win a lot of ball games with it."

Junior shortstop Robert Hill will be the main speed merchant on the base paths for the Eagles this year. A three-sport performer, Hill is regarded as one the top prospects to come out of 9-10 baseball.

Another gifted player who will contribute to the Eagles' success this season is Greg Scales, a 6-4 outfielder.

"Greg Scales has such unlimited potential," says Jessup. "He has good range, a good arm and excellent speed."

But even with hitting and speed, the tough games are won with good pitching, and the Eagles have one of the best in pro prospect Mitch Shears, a 6-4 flamethrower whose fastball has been clocked at 88 miles-per-hour. Williard and Kent Joyce give East Forsyth excellent depth in pitching.

But perennial powerhouse Reynolds is not conceding anything to the Eagles. The Demons (13-6 last season) will again be tough despite the loss of several seniors.

In senior second baseman Tommy Shelton (.386) and

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East Forsyth Senior High School Coach Ron Jessup (left) and his assistant Royal B. Lancaster take time out from practice to discuss the team's upcoming season (photo by James Parker).

## Those Post-Season Bids: Are Black Schools Being Shafted?

With the battles for conference tournament titles now determined among college basketball teams, national tournament fields have been selected and the wondering is over for teams that have impatiently waited for invitations to the NCAA in all three divisions.

The NIT bids and the NAIA pairings have also been decided.

As always, a number of schools feel they have been slighted by not being picked either for the 52-team NCAA Division I field or the 32-team NIT group.

There are unhappy coaches and administrators in the small-college ranks, too, whose teams were left from the NCAA Division II or NAIA post-season lists.

As always, predominantly black

schools are again among those institutions that feel they have been shafted by the various selection committees.

First let's take a look at the field for the NCAA Division I title tourney. Right now, there isn't a single black college team in the field. And there is a possibility that of the 48 teams that will vie for the title, no black college team will get a shot.

Oh yes, both North Carolina A&T and Alcorn State will have a shot at making the 48-team field that starts the long road toward the national title on March 17. But to get there, both A&T and Alcorn will have to win preliminary games.

The Aggies, winners of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tourna-

ment for the second straight season, had to get past Princeton, the Ivy League champ, on March 15 to qualify for the "Final 48."

The Aggies were beaten badly by



West Virginia last year in the first round of the West Regional. And despite an impressive 23-7 record this season, A&T had to defeat the Tigers (18-8) Tuesday night to get another shot at the West Regionals on Friday, March 18.

A win over Princeton would pit the Aggies against Oklahoma State,

23-6, and an upset winner over 11th-ranked Missouri in the Big Eight Conference tournament finals last Sunday afternoon.

The other black college team with a shot at the 48-team field is Alcorn State. Even though Dave Whitney's Braves have proven that they can indeed play with the best in the nation over the past few years, and took the Southwestern Athletic Conference tourney title for the third straight year, they were required to put their 21-9 record on the line against Xavier of Ohio (21-7) in Dayton, Ohio, on March 15.

Xavier won the Midwestern City Conference tournament to earn a qualifying-game berth.

As for where the games were scheduled, A&T played in

Philadelphia while Alcorn traveled to Dayton, Ohio, for its game.

Princeton is not that far from Philly and Xavier is a stone's throw from Dayton, giving both the teams playing black colleges definite homecourt advantages, but isn't that to be expected?

The NCAA's Division I isn't the only group that is making it hard on the black colleges. Over the weekend, Division II black colleges found their backs against the wall as well.

CIAA Commissioner Bob Moorman gave up all chances for the league's schools to get into the NAIA championship tourney field in order to get two automatic berths to the Division II playoffs.

A lot of good it did, since the two

teams that got the bids, Hampton Institute and St. Augustine's, ended up playing each other in the first round of the South Atlantic Regionals.

The Falcons won over Hampton, 78-73, but were eliminated in the regional title game by defending national titleholder District of Columbia, another black college team. Since almost all Division II black college teams are located in the South Atlantic, it was easy to make sure that only one advanced, and just that was done.

Cheyney State was beaten in overtime in the first round of the East Regional.

As for the NIT, its token black team is Alabama State, which won.

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