

# sports

Columns, Scores, Profiles, Predictions

## Twin City League Still Provides Both Youngsters And Parents With Fun And Valuable Lessons

By EDWARD HILL JR.  
Staff Writer

In 1961, a group of eight men decided to form a little league for black youth. Some 22 years and a lot of growing pains later, the Twin City League still thrives, thanks to their concern.

"Black kids in East Winston could not get into the little league at that time," recalls Winston-Salem Fire Chief

*"I think the Twin City League is a big asset for black kids. In some of the other leagues, unless a black kid is a super athlete, he may not get the right kind of training."*

-- John Jowers

Lester Ervin, one of the league's founders. "We were working out of the Patterson Avenue Y at the time and we decided we needed to organize a league for the kids. The whole effort was spearheaded by Larry Williams, who was with radio station Triple-A at the time."

The league was named the Youth Baseball League and had two teams each from Happy Hill Gardens, the 14th Street area, the northeast section of the city and the Skyland neighborhood. The money for uniforms and equipment came from fundraisers and black businesses

who served as sponsors and the games were played at city parks.

The Twin City League's original mission was to provide an opportunity for black youth to participate in a little league program. Today, it does that and a bit more.

There are still eight little league teams (ages nine through 12), but four Pony League teams (ages 13-15) and an "A" League team (ages 16-18) have been added. In 1972, the Twin City League became officially chartered under the national little league organization in Williamsport, Pa. It is the only all-black league in its district.

Coaches, umpires and officials who volunteer their services to the Twin City League all agree that their "love for youth" is the reason the league has survived.

"My son started out playing in the league and that's how I got into coaching," says William Westbrook Sr., who coaches one of the little league teams and who also serves on the league's board. "After that, I just stayed on because I love working with the kids."

"I do this for the love of our black kids," says Algee Cain, a Twin City little league coach for 18 years. "It's more than just the fundamentals of the game; it's trying to teach them something about life."

"I just saw them playing one day and the next thing I know I was an assistant coach," recalls Robert Galloway, a Pony League coach and player agent. "I just like help-



This Reds' pitcher appears to have good form on his curve ball as he challenges the big bats of the Pirates during last week's Twin City Pony League action at Kennedy High School (photo by James Parker).

ing kids, especially black kids, because that is where there is the greatest need."

"I've been trying to get in the league for years," says Charles Rice, who is an umpire and who recently assumed head coaching duties for one of the little league teams.

"My schedule was so hectic that I couldn't find the time. Finally, I worked it out and now I love it. I just love working with these kids."

Gail Rhynes, a member of the board, has tried to

stabilize the league by soliciting help from sponsors and parents. She explains why she became involved:

"I knew my son Steven was reaching the age of baseball about two years ago. I found out about the Twin City League and somehow I got involved. Before long, I was a team mother. Now I am a member of the board and assistant player agent to the Pony League."

Quilla Smith is team mother for the little league, but  
Please see page B10

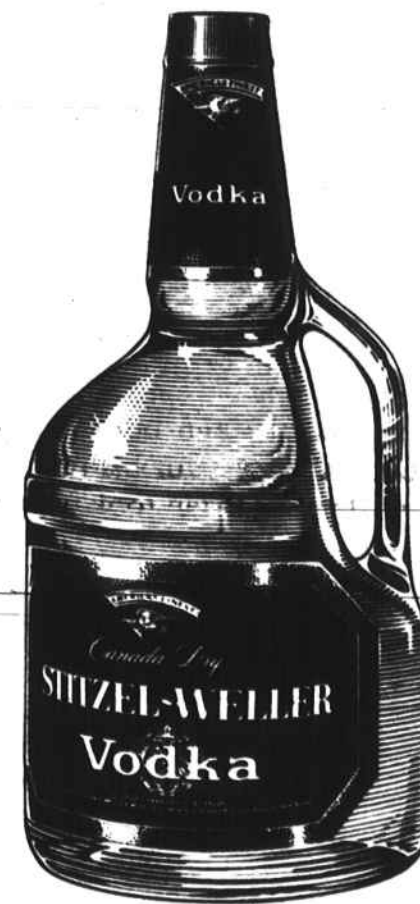


### He's Safe!

Rodney McCoy, a catcher for the Pirates, waits to throw as a player from the Reds slides safely into home plate during action in the Twin City Pony League play last week at Kennedy High School (photo by James Parker).

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### Black College Sports

## Will Doug Williams Succeed Eddie Robinson?

By BARRY COOPER  
Syndicated Columnist

Eddie Robinson, the long-time coach at Grambling State University, has been around so long that no one even bothers mentioning retirement to him any more. But if Robinson does step down in the next five years or so, his replacement could be Doug Williams, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' quarterback.

Williams, the first black to regularly play quarterback in the NFL, has stated publicly that he would like to return to Grambling as an assistant coach once his playing days are over.

It would appear that Williams could be closer to making that move than many thought. The Tampa Bay squad apparently is unwilling to pay Williams the kind of money he wants, and Williams may be traded soon to another NFL team or released to strike a deal with the United States Football League.

It is said that Williams, who played for Eddie Robinson at Grambling, might land an \$800,000-a-year contract with the new Houston Gamblers of the USFL or a team that is expected to be named in New Orleans soon.

If Williams does jump to the USFL, he would become the league's fourth black quarterback.

Many suspect that Williams wants to play pro football for only about five more years, and wants the kind of contract that would guarantee him financial security

for life.

Then he would return to Grambling, perhaps as Eddie Robinson's successor.

### Dispute Still Unsettled

At this writing, the football dispute between arch-rivals Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M was still raging. Of all the black college football games played each year, the Florida A&M and Bethune-Cookman contest is one of the most well-attended, second only to the Southern-Grambling game.

This year, however, the schools have not been able to agree on where to play the game. It has been played in Tampa (Fla.) Stadium the last five years, where it has drawn crowds of 40,000 or more.

Bethune wants the series to stay there, while FAMU wants the game played every other year on the FAMU campus, in its newly renovated and expanded stadium that seats over 25,000.

The impasse appears so great that the teams may not face each other this year. FAMU, for example, has not included Bethune on its 1983 schedule. Sources say the Rattlers may ask that their game with Tennessee State be counted as a conference game this year if the problem with Bethune can't be fixed.

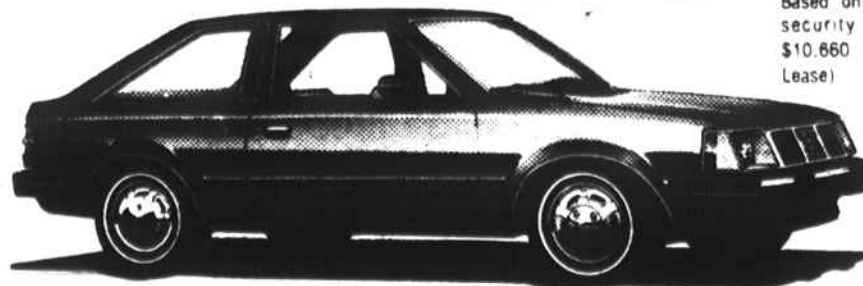
Bethune, which also will play Tennessee State this year, apparently would ask that its game with Tennessee State also be declared a conference game.

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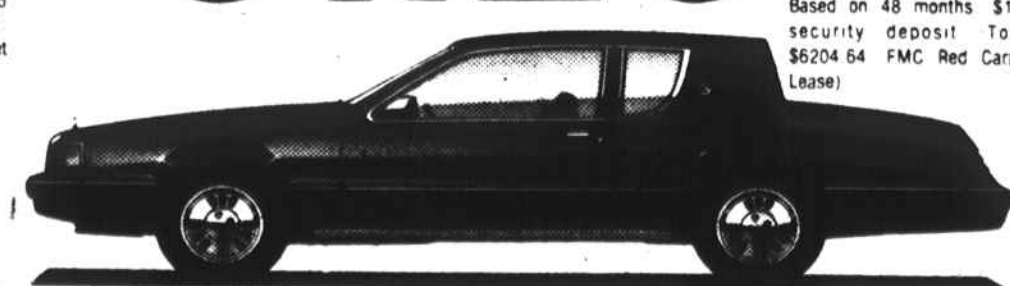
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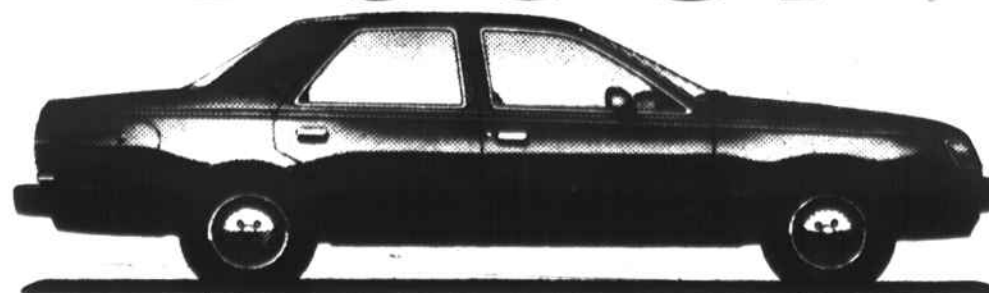
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