



7 Punishingly Perfect

At press time, Central State of Ohio was undefeated, untied and moving close to an NCAA Division II football championship. Meanwhile, the sun rises in the east, the sky is blue, the earth is round, water is wet and Virginia Union wins the CIAA title. So what else is new?

10 A Rocky Road

If you think Rodney Dangerfield has it tough, consider the plight of the Division I black school struggling to gain national respect -- and perhaps a Ralph Sampson in the process. Can the black schools make it, or are they playing on a level where they don't belong?

6 Mardi Gras In November

As if it needed an additional selling point, the Southwestern Athletic Conference's Bayou Classic determined the league's champion this year -- as well as settling Louisiana bragging rights, making a pretty penny and giving 58,000 people an excuse to celebrate Mardi Gras early.

9 Big Doings In Hot-Lanta

Though basketball season will be in full swing by Jan. 14, the main attraction that day will be the Freedom Bowl All-Star Classic in Atlanta, a football game pitting the best in the SWAC against the best in the MEAC.

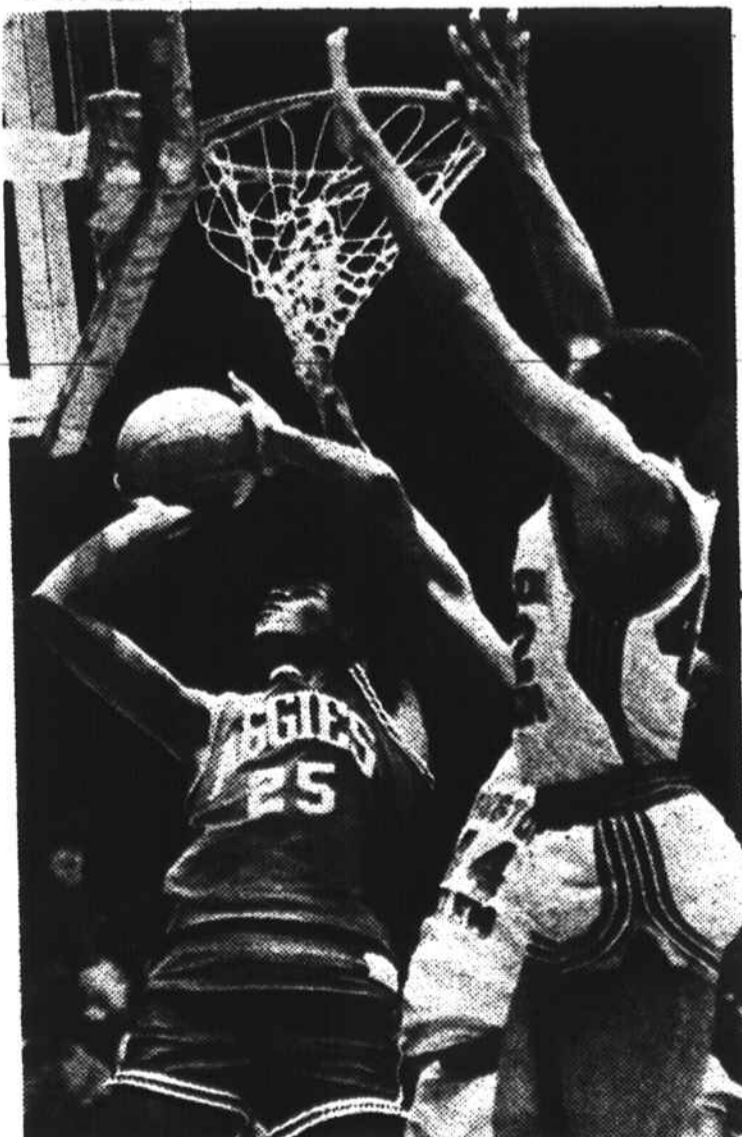


23 More Gains Than Losses

Winston-Salem State's legendary Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines wasn't as preoccupied with the fuss surrounding his possible 700th career victory as he was with opening the new season with a win. He got both.

22 The Rice Stuff

Our college football Player of the Year is Mississippi Valley's Jerry Rice, a man whose huge hands appear to have been custom-molded to catch footballs. Ed Hill reports.



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