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Black College Sports

Annual Exploitation Of Blacks Begins Soon

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

With the coming of a new year, a new athletic season will begin, but not on any field. Instead, grown men will fill their wallets with credit cards, call airlines for reservations and make sure that rental cars are available.

Those grown men, wearing broad smiles and armed with a zillion promises, will visit the homes of high school football players and try to talk them into signing grants-in-aid.

Most of their potential recruits will be black.

The exploitation of black athletes is rampant in this country, and is one of the biggest wastes of resources in America.

There have been many horror stories, such as documented cases of black high school players who went on to big, predominantly white

schools and left the schools four years later, not good enough to succeed at pro sports and not educated enough to get a job.

In fact, some who attended prestigious schools not only failed to get a degree, but somehow did not learn how to read, either.

This is not to suggest that all predominantly white schools are racist institutions that care nothing about their athletes. Certainly, most at least make an attempt to push their players in the right academic direction, and even some small, predominantly black schools are guilty of exploiting athletes.

The problem of black athletes being exploited must be addressed long before the youngsters enter Grambling, Alcorn State, UCLA, Southern California or any other school where a great emphasis is placed on sports.

More attention must be paid to academics in high school, particularly to the basic skills of writing, math and reading. Without a firm foundation in those areas, no athlete can ever hope to survive in college, no matter how many tutors he is provided with or how many study halls he is ordered to attend.

The irony in all of this is that many black athletes willingly allow themselves to be exploited. This is usually the way it works:

The player, an athletic superstar in high school, and the kid the local folks choose mostly likely to make it to the pros, signs with a big-time university despite having achieved barely a "C" average in high school.

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Paisley High's Tabitha Bines almost decided to unleash her jumpshot against Atkins, but finds she's a little out of range. Atkins won 39-30 (photo by James Parker).

Rams Make 'Bighouse' Smile With Win

By ROBERT ELLER
Sports Editor

Winston-Salem State Coach "Bighouse" Gaines managed a slight smile Friday night as he bade goodbye to most of his basketball team until early January.

Part of the smile was the result of his gaining his 700th win in the season-opener for the team. Another was no doubt due to the fact that his Rams had won two tournament titles en route to a 5-2 mark in the early season.

But the biggest part of the smile had to come from the play of his Rams that night in an 86-64 whipping of St. Paul's.

Holding only a 40-35 lead at halftime, Gaines turned to senior utility man Buck Mitchell seven minutes into the second half. Mitchell then turned his attention to shutting down the Tigers' Charles Bell. Bell, the league's second-leading scorer, entering game with a 23.3-point average, kept the Tigers close in the first 20 minutes as he fired in 16 points.

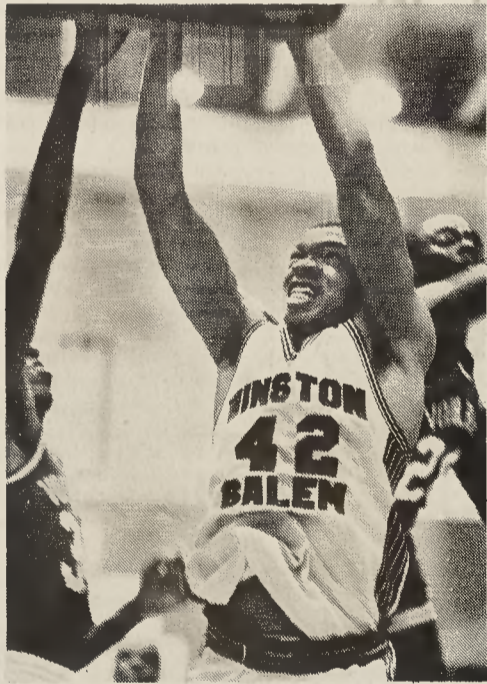
But, with Mitchell shadowing every move and

contesting every shot, Bell could only manage four second-half points.

With the Tigers' big gun

silenced, the Rams steadily pulled away to grab an easy win.

Gaines, who has been less



WSSU's Linwood Gorham (42), shown here in action against Elizabeth City, pumped in 16 first-half points before yielding to defensive specialist Buck Mitchell (photo by James Parker).

than pleased with his team's play in a number of contests, despite the 5-2 mark, praised the play of Mitchell. "He is our best defensive ballplayer and is very coachable," Gaines said. "You give him a task and he responds."

Gaines also was happy with his team's second-half defense. "St. Paul's abandoned their pattern when Mitchell cut off Bell," he said. "This was one of our better defensive games."

And Gaines was pleased with the play of point guard Alonzo Willis, who started in place of John Watkins and played 37 minutes, committing only one turnover. "This was Willis' best game," he said. "He is beginning to relax now and he kept the offense moving."

That movement was obvious in the second half, the majority of which the Rams' top two scorers spent on the bench. Freshman sharpshooter Linwood Gorham scored all of his 16 points in the opening 20 minutes, and was replaced by Mitchell, for defensive purposes, with the Rams up only 54-52 with more than 13 minutes left in the game.

Troy Russell, the CIAA's leading scorer with a 25-point average, had gone to the bench after picking up his fourth foul at the 15:53 mark, having tallied 15 points.

But, with those two on the bench, Mitchell and Roger Mason took up the scoring slack. Mason led all scorers with 22 points and had a game-high 14 rebounds. Mitchell scored all 11 of his points in the game's final eight and a half minutes. He also had

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Purzycki Honored As Top MEAC Coach

By ROBERT ELLER
Sports Editor

Joe Purzycki of Delaware State has been voted the 1983 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Football Coach of the Year by his fellow head coaches.

The announcement was made at the third annual MEAC All-Star Football Banquet held in Greensboro's Airport Hilton Inn Dec. 13.

Purzycki, in only his third year at the Hornet helm, guided Delaware State to a 7-3-1 record. The school's previous best season had been a 7-4 mark in 1977.

The 3-1 league mark, good enough for second in the league, was the Hornets' best MEAC finish in five years.

Purzycki, the first white coach in Delaware State and MEAC history, praised his team, his school and the MEAC in accepting the award. "The recognition is wonderful and it is even more meaningful because my peers voted me the award and it says a lot about their quality of thinking and their sense of fairness," Purzycki said. "I want to thank my team for their performance, Delaware State for giving me my first college head

coaching opportunity and the MEAC as a whole for bending over backwards to see that I got a fair shake."

Purzycki came to Delaware State in 1981 after serving as defensive backfield coach at the University of Delaware, his alma mater, for three seasons. A 1971 graduate of the school, he served as defensive captain his senior year and still holds the school record for interceptions in a season, with nine.

Before coaching at Delaware, he coached at Caesar Rodney High in Delaware, where in three seasons he compiled a 33-2 record with both losses coming in post-season play.

Purzycki did not have an easy time at Delaware State. His selection as the school's head coach in 1981 resulted in student demonstrations and the defection of a large number of veteran Hornet football players.

But the 36 year-old workaholic took charge of a program that had absorbed a 105-0 loss the year before and immediately installed the Wing T offense that he learned at Delaware under Tubby Raymond.

Delaware State finished 2-9 in his first season but was

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