

SportsWeek

Scores, Standings, Columns, Features

Black College Sports

Does NFL draft exploit black college players?

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

It is widely believed that pro football scouts spend much of their time wandering around the countryside, with stop watches dangling from their necks and magnifying glasses glued to their eyes.

On these expeditions, the scouts look for raw football talent that has not yet been discovered. The most diligent of these football detectives are said to even go as far as peek under decaying rock and tip over trash cans in their never-ending search for a few men who can play football.

After these sundry searches are completed, the snoops gather at team head-

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-- Rudy Hubbard

quarters, compile their notes and wait for draft day to come.

Then, supposedly, the best players in the country -- 336 of them -- are selected during a 12-round marathon. History tells that this is not always true, however.

Everson Walls, who now seems destined to become one of the best defensive backs ever, was not drafted out of Grambling a few years ago. All Walls did was step in as a rookie and start every game for the Dallas Cowboys.

When a player such as Walls is not drafted, he often is signed as a free agent. That brings us to the subject of this week's column.

Chances are that Ray Alexander, a superb wide receiver for Florida A&M, would like to call Walls and talk about how it feels to be left out.

In this year's draft, 336 names were called before the NFL called it quits, and

not a one of those names was Ray Alexander's. So the man who most felt to be the best wide receiver in black college football this year went unclaimed.

Fortunately, the Denver Broncos partially corrected this travesty by quickly signing Alexander to a free-agent contract. And chances are excellent that the Broncos will find themselves with the same kind of bargain that Dallas did when it inked Walls.

There is a prevailing school of thought that says the NFL intentionally creates such fire sales by looking the other way when names of black college players are mentioned at Draft Central.

Of course, the NFL would staunchly deny this and point to the hordes of black college players that are drafted each year. However, even though black college players go on to become stars in the NFL, few are ever picked during the first few rounds.

And, yes, it is a big deal to be picked on, say, the first, second or third round.

A first-round draft choice can expect to be paid a signing bonus of \$300,000. That's not salary, mind you, but simply a lump-sum bonus that the player gets up front and can keep even if he doesn't make the club.

A second-round pick gets about a \$200,000 bonus and a third-round pick about \$100,000.

Surely Everson Walls should have been a first-round pick. Not being taken in the initial round means he lost more than \$500,000, counting bonus and salary.

The Cowboys are believed to have signed Walls for a paltry \$3,500 bonus and a \$35,000 salary.

Says Florida A&M Coach Rudy Hubbard: "It seems that too many of the guys from the predominantly black institutions have to be free agents and get paid (the big money) three or four years later. Even then, they never catch up to what some of the other guys were making."

Pro scouts say that players such as Walls and Alexander slip through the Please see page B3



Legs, Arms And Shoelaces

Her left shoelaces dangling, Reynolds' Ann Hall competes in the 200-meter low hurdles at a high school girls' sectional track meet last week at Western Guilford. Hall placed

second in the finish with a 30.8 time (photo by Joe Daniels)

Black College Briefs

CIAA Tournament to move to Richmond in '86

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

RICHMOND, Va. -- As expected, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association has decided to move its highly popular and lucrative basketball tournament from Norfolk to Richmond, Va.

The event, which annually is one of the biggest happenings in black college athletics, will

be played at the Scope Arena in Norfolk at the end of this season, but will move to Richmond for the 1986 tournament.

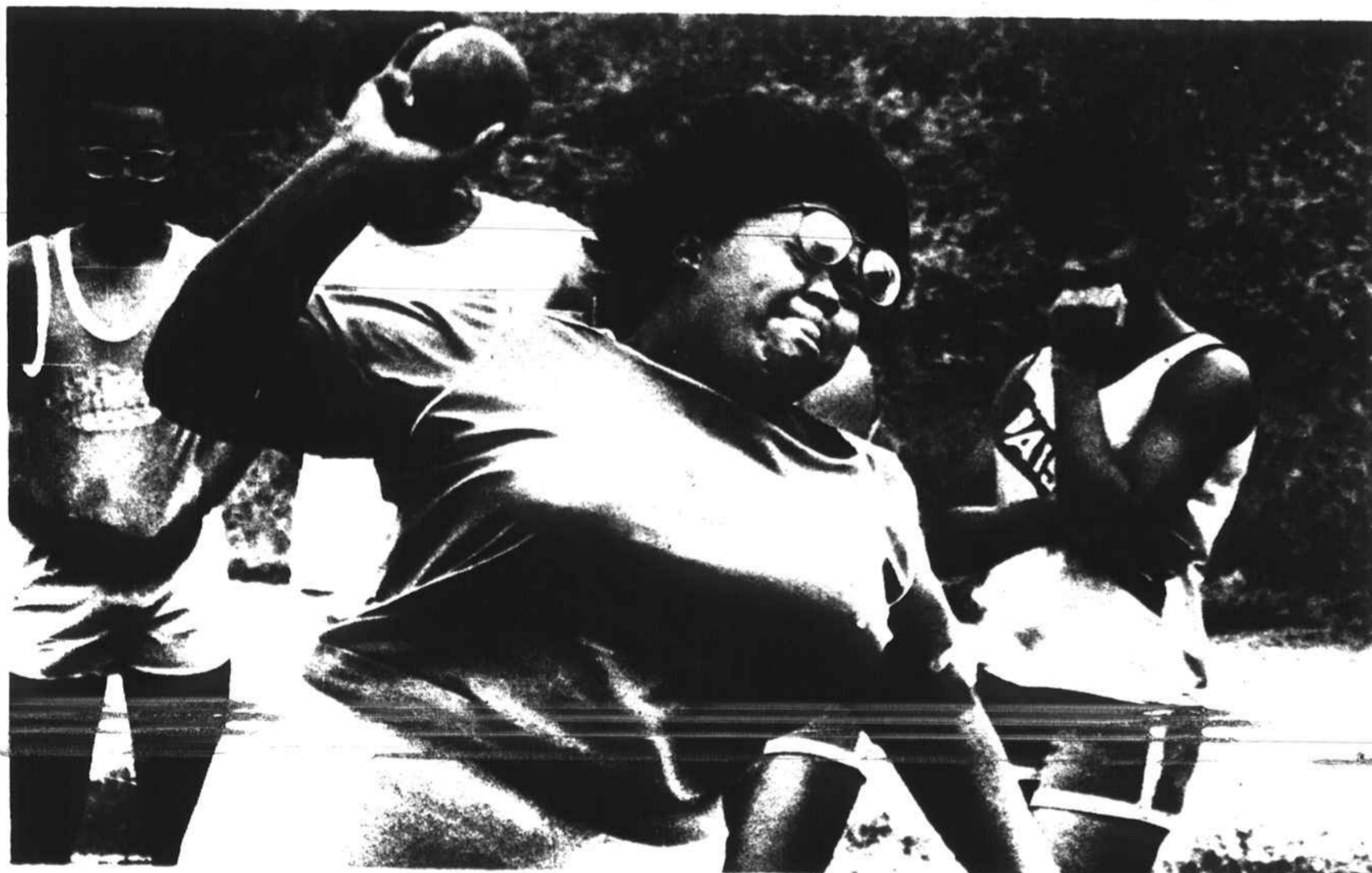
Richmond has a two-year contract to host the tourney.

Richmond won in what became an intense bidding war. Last season's tournament, which involved all 14 conference teams, attracted 50,543 spectators and had ticket sales of around

\$350,000.

CIAA Commissioner Bob Moorman said tournament fans spent more than \$3.5 million with Norfolk merchants during the event.

Richmond won the rights for the next two tournaments after its city council voted to give the CIAA a \$200,000 guarantee each year, as well as to provide a \$3,000 scholarship for each of the 14 teams in the league for two years.



Heave-Ho!

Kennedy High shot-putter Monica David gives her all in a regular-season contest. David heaved the metal far enough last week to place second in the local 9-10 conference championships (photo by James Parker). --28

Junior Olympics meet set for WSSU

By ROBERT ELLER
Sports Editor

The Road Runners Track Club, coached by Virgil Simpson, will host the 1984 Winston-Salem TAC Junior Olympics Track and Field Local Meet May 19 at the Winston-Salem State University track.

The meet, sanctioned by the USA, North Carolina and Triad athletic councils of the Athletic Congress, is open to aspiring track and field participants falling in any of five categories.

Those categories include, for both males and females, the bantam division, for participants born after 1974; midget division, born 1972-73; junior division, born 1970-71; intermediate division, born 1968-69, and young men's or women's division, born 1966-67.

Those athletes entered in the bantam and midget divi-

sions may compete in a maximum of three events, including relays. Youth intermediates and young men and women may take part in a maximum of four events, including relays.

Junior Olympic ribbons will be presented to the first six finishers in all events, which include competition in 18 track and seven field events.

The entry fee is \$2.00 per athlete and \$3.00 per club relay team and an athlete must be a member of a sanctioned club in order to take part.

The registration deadline is May 16. An additional \$2.00 fee per participant will be charged for late registration.

The top four finishers in each event will advance to the sectional meet June 9 in Greensboro.

Events begin at 8 a.m. on the 19th. For more information, or to register, call Virgil Simpson at 722-5517.

Hampton tennis team places third

Hampton Institute placed third in the NCAA Division II national tennis tournament recently by defeating Chapman College of Los Angeles 6-3.

In addition, freshman sensation Yaya Doumbia earned a trip to the Division I national tourney by reaching the finals of the Division II event before bowing to Steve Riza of Stephen F. Austin University 6-3, 6-4.

Doumbia, sporting an amazing 30-6 record for the

season, is the fourth player in Hampton history to qualify for Division I tourney play.

The NCAA Division I tennis national tournament begins Thursday, May 17, in Athens, Ga.

For the season, Hampton finished with a 34-7 record, was 8-0 in CIAA play and won its 11th straight CIAA title.

Rebuilding Aggies enjoying a banner recruiting year in basketball

GREENSBORO -- Realizing that a rebuilding season lies ahead, veteran North Carolina A&T basketball Coach Don Corbett has signed five high school standouts, hoping to offset the loss of three starters from last year's NCAA Tournament team.

Included in the list of Aggie recruits are two players from North Carolina who have been selected to play in the East-West All-Star Classic in Greensboro in July.

Those two players are Norman Johnson of Wilkes Central of Lenoir County and Lee Robinson of Scotland County of Laurinburg.

Johnson averaged 19 points and nine rebounds as a

guard at Central. He stands 6-foot-3 and weighs 185 pounds. In addition to being a good outside shooter, Johnson is also a solid ballhandler.

Robinson (6-6, 200 pounds) paced Scotland County High with 21 points and 13 rebounds per game last season. Robinson will be one of the candidates seeking a starting position in the frontcourt, which suffered the losses of three-time MEAC Player of the Year Joe Binion, James Horace and Darryl Battle.

Darryl Holton will be vying for a position in the frontcourt, too, and brings impressive credentials to A&T. Holton (6-6, 210 pounds) is from Thomasville,

Ga., and attended Central High School, where he compiled averages of 17 points and 10 rebounds.

He was named Player of the Year in Region 1, 4-A.

In addition to filling both forward positions, Corbett has to come up with a replacement at center as well. A logical choice to fill that void is Richard Stokes of San Diego's Sam Morse High.

Stokes is listed at 6-9, 205 pounds. Last season at Sam Morse, he averaged 12 points and 14 rebounds.

To add depth in the backcourt, Corbett also signed Robert Sumler, a teammate of Stokes at Sam Morse. Sumler averaged 18 points and 11 assists.

He stands 5-10 and weighs 160 pounds.

"We will definitely be in a rebuilding year," Corbett said, "and it was important to recruit some players who could come in and play right away."

"It's going to be a tremendous challenge to maintain the kind of success we've had the last three years, but I feel confident that our recruits will be able to make an early contribution."

A&T is coming off a season which saw the Aggies capture the MEAC championship for the third year in a row. It was also the team's third straight berth in the NCAA playoffs and fourth consecutive postseason appearance.