



Moss: He'll be a jack of more than one trade at WSSU, too (photo by James Parker).

Sports People

Where does this 5-10, 180-pounder play? Practically anywhere you want him to

By ROBERT ELLER
Sports Editor

This time last spring, Cedric Moss was nearing the end of his third sports season of the school year as a member of the Reynolds Senior High baseball team.

But this year, as his teammates take part in the state baseball tourney, Moss is busy working part time during his afternoons as he prepares to enter college this fall.

"I really enjoy baseball," he says, "but, now that I know that I'll be in college playing football in the fall, I felt I'd better try and put away a little money for school."

Moss, a sturdily-built, 5-10, 180-pound running back, defensive back, point guard and outfielder, recently signed to attend Winston-Salem State University this fall, where he'll join his backfield mate last season at Reynolds, Clifton Mack (who earlier inked with the Rams).

"I really enjoy sports and each of the three helps to keep me in shape for the other two. By playing baseball this summer, it will help me be in better shape once football season rolls around."

-- Cedric Moss

The versatile Moss and Mack have already talked about the possibility of playing together in the Rams' backfield, but Moss also has other plans for his stay at WSSU.

"I grew up playing basketball at 14th Street Recreation Center under Bill English (the WSSU assistant basketball coach) and I plan to play basketball there (at WSSU), too," Moss says.

As Reynolds' basketball point guard, Moss directed Coach Stan Elrod's offense with patience and poise while sacrificing his own scoring.

"I always think of the team first in any sport," he says, "and, last year, we had three other scorers, so I saw my role as getting the ball to them in scoring position. If that is what I'm asked to do at WSSU, then I'll do it. If I'm asked to score, then I feel I can handle that, too."

His flexibility, Moss adds, is one of his key assets. "I

don't know if (WSSU football) Coach (Bill) Hayes plans to use me on offense or defense," he says, "but it doesn't matter to me as long as I can help the team."

Though he still isn't sure which is his favorite sport, Moss, who began his career on the diamond as a 10-year-old in the Twin City Little League, says baseball may be his best.

"In baseball, size is not a key factor," he says. "It helps to be big, but if you have good speed and quickness and strength, you can overcome the size barrier much easier than in football or basketball."

Moss will resume his baseball career this summer as either a member of the Pond Giants or Indians semi-pro teams. "I really enjoy sports, and each of the three helps to keep you in shape for the other two," he says. "By playing baseball this summer, it will help me be in better shape once football season rolls around."

With plans to major in health and physical education at WSSU, Moss has an eye on playing pro baseball or football, or coaching after college.

"Some people say a person shouldn't start thinking about what they will do after college before they start," he says, "but I have wanted to be a pro athlete ever since I started playing sports competitively, and then so many of my coaches have helped me along, if I don't make pro ball, I want to try and help other kids. I'd really like to coach all three sports."

Trying to coach three sports would make for a hectic routine, but Moss is used to it.

"I've played three sports every year since junior high up until this year," he says. "It is a little hard, but it's also just like a job. I go to school six hours, then practice, and then do my work at home. Once you get used to it, you can do it if you really want to, but it isn't easy if you don't have the desire."

Desire, like versatility, is one of Moss' chief assets. This summer, he plans to work hard on weight training as well as play baseball.

"I know I will need extra strength to play college football," he says. "I run a 4.5 40 and I think I'm quick enough, so being in the best of shape and getting stronger are my goals for the beginning of my college career."

For Moss, setting goals and reaching them come almost as naturally as running a football, handling a basketball or hitting a baseball. But then, with his talent, and the willingness he has to put it to work, why shouldn't they?

Black College Briefs

Inflation's deflating Bayou Classic

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

NEW-ORLEANS -- Price-gouging by hotels during the Bayou Classic has not been well-received by fans who annually attend the nation's most successful Division I-AA game and premier black college sporting event.

Southwestern Athletic Conference rivals Grambling and Southern play in front of crowds that average 65,000 each Thanksgiving weekend in the New Orleans Superdome.

However, hotel prices that average close to \$100 a night have caused the crowd to dwindle slightly in recent years, from the 70,000 range to only 58,000 last year, sources say.

Talks reportedly are under way to create special discount packages at some of the city's major hotels.

Making Amends In Florida?

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- A new spirit of cooperation could be developing between arch-rivals Florida A&M and Bethune-Cookman College. The schools, which had discontinued their popular football series because of a dispute over where to play, have been holding cordial talks recently.

Although the resumption of the football series still has not occurred, FAMU and B-CC are said to be near an agreement on an innovative basketball schedule.

The agreement would call for Florida A&M's men's and women's teams to play at Bethune-Cookman on separate dates. In the past, the FAMU men and women have played at B-CC as part of a doubleheader that drew capacity crowds.

However, B-CC, figuring it could have two sellouts if the FAMU men and women came to town on different dates, approached FAMU with the idea and the Rattlers said yes.

It was only a minor negotiation, but, once official, it will mark the first time the schools have agreed on anything since the interruption of their football series two years ago.

Playoff Field Expanded

CHARLESTON, S.C. -- The NCAA has announced plans to enlarge its I-AA football playoffs from 12 to 16 teams for this season. Black college officials immediately hailed the announcement as good news, saying it would create more opportunities for black colleges to be selected.

In the past, few black schools have participated, mostly because they knocked themselves out of the running by beating each other late in the season.

Also, the NCAA announced that its I-AA championship game would be played in Charleston, S.C., through 1987.

Last year's title game there drew a record crowd of 14,000.

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