



Minority Involvement

During a hands-on workshop at the recent Minority Biomedical Research Support Symposium, a participant works with the latest in high technology research equipment. The symposium, funded by the Division of Research Resources of the National Institutes of Health, is the largest meeting of minority scientists in the United States. The research forum was held recently in Washington, D.C.

Black On Sports

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chance to prove their pro ability.

"There is no question that Kermit Blount was the best athlete I ever had," he says of the 5-8, 170-pound signalcaller who led the Rams to two straight unbeaten regular seasons, two CIAA crowns and a pair of post-season appearances in the 70s, "but, because of his size, he never got a chance at pro ball.

"Then there was Elbert Grinnell, who had great size, but nobody would give him a year or two to develop." The 6-7, 280-pounder played defensive line for the Rams and started for two seasons.

Hayes also says the best blocker he ever coached, hasn't been given a shot at pro ball.

"John Nimmons (a senior offensive tackle last season) is the best blocker I have ever had," Hayes says. "He was better than Larry Teary (whom Hayes coached at Wake Forest and later was a first-round draft choice by the Detroit Lions), but, because of his lack of speed, nobody would give him a tryout. But that's the breaks of the game.

"You have to be in the right place at the right time to make it -- even if you have the talent. And, of course, you have to be given a chance."

Jack Cameron will get his chance and Hayes is hoping he'll make the best of it.

Hayes says one of Cameron's biggest advantages is that he played under Pete Richardson for four years.

Richardson, the Rams' defensive coordinator and secondary coach, played six years in the NFL for the Buffalo Bills and, says Hayes, has taught the Ram defensive backs how to play the secondary "pro style."

"First of all, Pete won't have a defensive back who can't run," Hayes says. "That is one of the first requirements he has for the defensive backs. And then he teaches them the bump and run, just as the pros play it. Some coaches will give up the short pass, but not Pete. He has the backs get up in the receiver's face and dares the offense to throw the ball. Playing that type of coverage in college should really help Jack."

With Cameron and the rest of this year's senior class moving on to what he hopes will be bigger and better things, the Ram coach already is thinking about present players who may have a chance at the pros in the future.

"Maybe I shouldn't say this because it might jinx the kid, but Danny Moore has a chance to be a first-round choice if he continues to work hard," says Hayes of his prize junior center. "But so many things can happen. Bill Murrell had a great career ahead of him but hurt his knee and so did Dan Jacobs, so you have to be both lucky and good to make it."

For the 23 Rams who did get shots at the pros, part of that luck has been playing for Bill Hayes.

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