

## Eddie Robinson

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Though most of the things written and said about Robinson lately are complimentary, some aren't. Robinson found himself sharing the same kind of scenario baseball great Hank Aaron faced: a black man chasing a record set by a white hero.

It is, of course, a race no black man can win. White heroes die hard and it is likely that in most parts of this country, Bear Bryant will be more recognized for his coaching accomplishments than Robinson will be for his. No matter, though. Robinson is a class individual, too big to get caught up in the

petty jealousies of people who know little about what they're talking about. Why, one sportswriter of a major paper in Alabama suggested that Robinson has won against "minor-league competition."

Aaron, the baseball great, went through a lot of that. When Aaron pursued Babe Ruth's home run record, he received death threats.

It has not been nearly that bad for Robinson, but critics insist that his record cannot be compared with Bryant's, for Robinson's clubs never have played a full schedule against

major-college competition.

In fact, Grambling played an all-black-college schedule until the 1970s. Some even point out the fact that Grambling was not even a member of the NCAA early in Robinson's career. Others whisper that some of Grambling's victories came against junior college teams. That never has been proven and Grambling denies it.

Robinson, who has tried to schedule games with top clubs -- Grambling lost by a touchdown to Southern Methodist in 1983 and beat Oregon State this year -- shrugs off comparisons to Bryant.

"I'm sure as far as the people of Alabama are concerned, nobody will ever replace Bear Bryant, no matter how many games he wins," Robinson said. "I'm sure that the whites and blacks in Alabama feel that way. I would, however, like to be remembered as a guy who made the same contributions Bryant did, who influenced people's lives and made an impact on the game."

*Barry Cooper is a nationally syndicated columnist.*

## CIAA REPORT

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Through the Gardner-Webb game, the junior from Topeka, Kan., had thrown for 922 yards on 53 of 104 passes (51 percent) for five interceptions and four touchdowns. His primary target was Jay Martin, who had 17 receptions for 385 yards.

"We knew we would be young this year and that's why we decided to emphasize the passing game," said Corley, in his seventh year at the Salisbury, N.C., school. "Kids pass blocked better than they run block. It's easier to

teach pass-blocking technique."

The Bears also are running out of the pro set. With White, they had run the veer, which is more of an option offense.

The defense has allowed 290 yards per game, which is a little high for a team totaling 330 yards itself, but defensive backs Russell Rice and Charlie Smith and linebacker Angelo Chapman have had outstanding performances. Rice was second in the conference with six interceptions.

Meanwhile, freshman place-kicker Curtis Crockett had hit on 14 of 15 conversions. His kickoffs consistently kept UDC bottled up deep in its own territory.

If anything, don't leave early on the Bears. They've outscored the opposition 61-7 in the fourth quarter. They're liable to make matters interesting.

Corley also improved the school's basketball fortunes. The Bears posted an 8-19 record in 1983-84 before going 12-15 last season.

"We easily could have been a 20-game winner," Corley said. "We lost three games by one point, three by two points and three by less than six and more than three. If the kids could have won five of those nine they would have been 17-10, which is quite a swing."

Corley said he likes to run football practice in the afternoon until 6:30 in the evening. Basketball practice, which started Oct. 15, is held late, from 8:30 until 11.

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