

College Football

Morgan considers return to Division II

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

The first Division I black college to buckle under the pressure of Proposition 48 may be Morgan State.

Morgan, which before integration had one of the most successful athletic programs in the country, today is in such rocky financial shape with regards to athletics that it is considering drastic moves. The enactment of Proposition 48, now Bylaw 5-1-(j), may have pushed Morgan past its limit.

Bear officials confirmed recently that they are considering withdrawing from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and returning to Division II.

School President Dr. Earl Richardson, under pressure from state officials to get Morgan back on track, said: "I suspect that (by the end of the year) we will have made a decision about whether we want to compete in Division I or II. It may be good there. That is one strategy for building. I am sure we have many boosters who feel differently."

Morgan has been so strapped financially that it currently needs \$300,000 in donations to run the athletic department. Last year, according to sources, predominantly black schools like Morgan spent about \$200,000, according to Athletic Director Earl Banks. He said this year's budget is less than \$300,000.

The lack of money has virtually ruined Morgan's chances of winning on the field. The Bears, forced to play with fewer players

Ranking	Record	Points
1. Delaware State	3-0	117
2. Grambling State	2-0	99
3. Tennessee State	3-0	93
4. N.C. A&T	3-0	89
5. Central State	2-0	72
6. Jackson State	3-1	61
7. Mississippi Valley	1-0	37
8. Southern U.	2-1	32
9. Norfolk State	3-0	22
10. tie, Virginia Union	3-0	15
Bethune-Cookman	2-1	15
12. W-S State	1-2	6
13. N.C. Central	2-2	5
14. tie, Fort Valley	2-1	4
Alcorn State	1-2	4

on scholarship than other schools, have a 24-game losing streak, dating back to Nov. 12, 1983. Prospects for this season are not any better.

It appears that only a national fund-raising drive, if successful, will keep Morgan in the MEAC and Division I. Recently, the school mailed out solicitation letters to its alumni. The letters were signed by former Morgan State star Willie Lanier, who recently was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

If Morgan does decide to leave the MEAC, it will be yet another blow for the league, which has struggled to keep its members afloat.

"It would definitely hurt us in football," MEAC Commissioner Ken Free said. "We can just hope that in the final analysis things will work out for Morgan State and they will decide to stay in the conference."

The MEAC would lose its recently obtained automatic

berth in the Division I-AA playoffs if Morgan withdraws.

Division I-AA has lost most of its attractiveness for historically black colleges because of tougher academic standards placed on new recruits and a lack of opportunity for television appearances. Virtually all of the black schools that moved up from Division II to I-AA in the late 1970s did so because of the chance to earn more than \$100,000 each year from television. But the networks, freed from that NCAA contract, no longer televise I-AA games.

If Morgan leaves the MEAC, it will be interesting to see if that starts a trend back to Division II.

Notes & Asides

• Fort Valley State Coach **Doug Porter** is watching from the sidelines this season for the first time in his seven years with the Wildcats. Porter, who has a 56-15-2 record at Fort Valley, suffered a heart attack before the team's ninth game last season.

"My cardiologist told me that I could return to duties without limitations after December," Porter said. "Meanwhile, I feel our program is in very capable hands with the coaches who have been with us over the years."

Gerald Walker, an assistant to Porter for six years, will continue serving as interim coach. Fort Valley was 9-3 last year and shared the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title. Please see page B4



MICHAEL WARREN: From Sports to the Spotlight

Michael Warren, star of a hit TV series and current Miller Lite personality, talks about the days when he co-starred on UCLA's basketball team with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (then known as Lew Alcindor). "When Kareem arrived on campus, we knew he was going to be great—he led us to two championships! Our 1968 team may have been the best college team of all time," says Warren.

A Funny Thing Happened...

During his freshman year at UCLA, before a game late in the season, the team got a "Knute Rockne" type pep talk. A teammate was so inspired he wanted to lead the team to the gym floor. "Well, he didn't know where the gym was and he took a wrong turn," Warren laughs. "We ended up on the side street facing a highway, locked out of the gym! Our freshman team was probably the worst in the history of UCLA."

Changing Scenes

Because he was not quite six feet tall, Mike says he never dreamed of a future playing professional basketball. "I eventually changed majors and began to study theatrical arts," Warren admits that there is an "awful amount of luck involved" in the acting business; timing is everything. "Marking on future plans, Michael states, 'Now that I've established myself as an actor, I hope to find projects that I can direct or produce.' At present, Michael enjoys being a Lite Beer All-Star. "I drink Miller Lite and keep it stocked at my house," says Warren, "that way I never run out. It tastes great!"

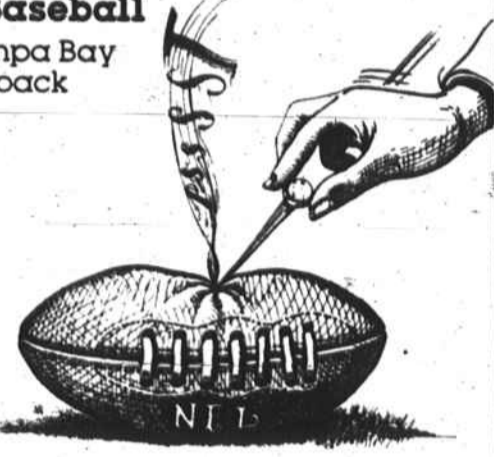


The NFL Selects

The 51st regular draft of the National Football League posed many questions that won't be answered until this season. Every team sought to shore up weak spots and most drafted well-known players. The Los Angeles Raiders, however, tried to find the diamond in the rough and selected little known defensive end, Bob Bruczkowski, as their number one choice. Will Bob be the next "Refrigerator?"

Bo Opts for Baseball

When Tampa Bay made running back Bo Jackson of Auburn the first player taken in the draft, he became the 22nd runner to receive the top honor. Ironically, he is the second Heisman Trophy winner in history not to choose football. Jackson opted for baseball instead and has signed a contract with the Kansas City Royals organization.



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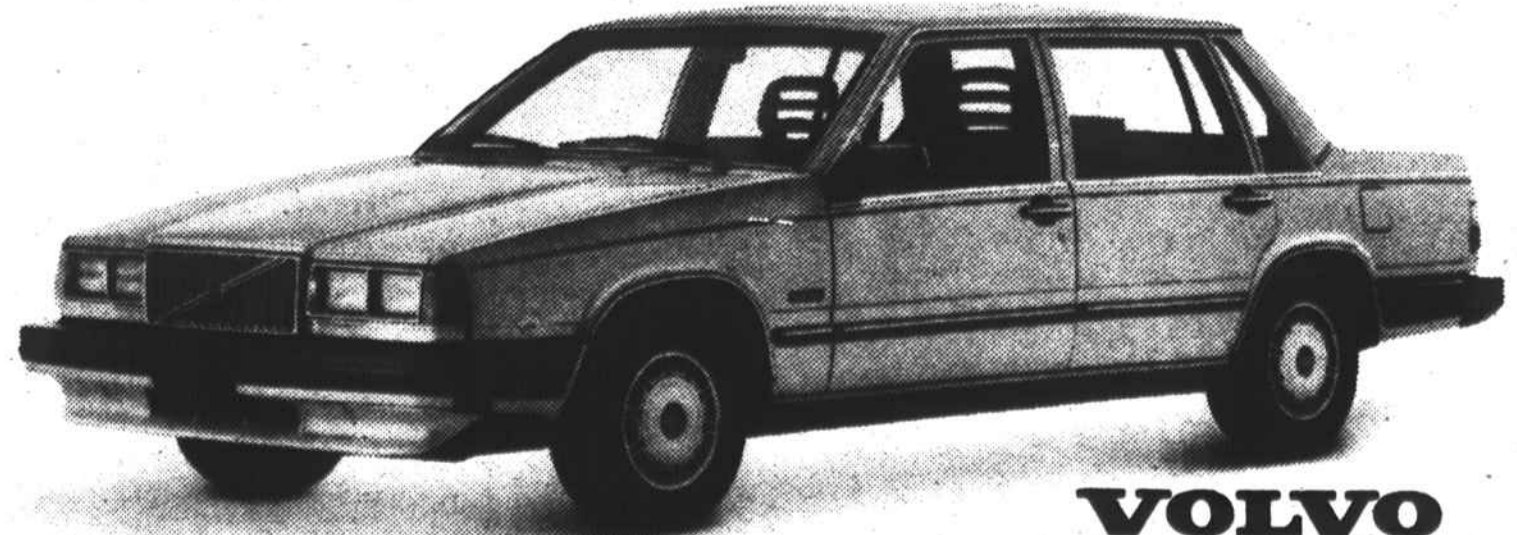
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Division	Conference	All
CIAA Northern Division	Norfolk State	3-0-0
	Virginia Union	2-0-0
	Elizabeth City	1-0-0
	Virginia State	1-1-0
	Hampton University	1-1-0
	St. Paul's	0-2-0
CIAA Southern Division	N.C. Central	2-0-0
	Winston-Salem State	1-0-0
	Livingstone	0-1-0
	Fayetteville State	0-2-0
	Johnson C. Smith	0-2-0
	Bowie State	0-2-0
MEAC	Bethune-Cookman	2-0-0
	Delaware State	1-0-0
	North Carolina A&T	1-0-0
	South Carolina State	0-1-0
	Howard University	0-1-0
	Morgan State	0-2-0
SWAC	Jackson State	2-0-0
	Southern University	2-0-0
	Grambling State	1-0-0
	Texas Southern	1-1-0
	Alcorn State	1-1-0
	Prairie View A&M	0-2-0
SIAC Div. II	Tuskegee	2-0-0
	Albany State	1-0-0
	Alabama A&M	1-0-0
	Fort Valley State	1-0-0
	Morris Brown	1-1-0
	Clark	0-1-0
SIAC Div. III	Savannah State	0-2-0
	Morehouse	0-2-0
	Knoxville	1-0-0
	Lane	1-1-0
	Miles	0-1-0
	Independents	Overall
*-Tennessee State	3-0-0	
Central State	2-0-0	
Florida A&M	1-2-0	
CIAA Results	Virginia Union 16, Hampton 7	
	Elizabeth City State 21, Bowie State 13	
	Livingstone 13, UDC 13	
	Norfolk State 6, Johnson C. Smith 0	
	Virginia State 50, Fayetteville 13	
	St. Paul's 23, Newport News 20	
MEAC Results	Delaware State 40, Morgan State 12	
	Bethune-Cookman 30, Howard 0	
	North Carolina A&T 34, S.C. State 11	
	SWAC Results	Jackson State 32, Prairie View A&M 24
		Grambling State 32, N.C. Central 24
		Alcorn State 24, Alabama State 17
Southern U. 43, Texas Southern 29		
SIAC Results		Alabama A&M 7, Savannah State 3
		Tuskegee 26, Morris Brown 18
	Knoxville 26, Lane 20	
	Albany State 42, Miles 7	
	Fort Valley State 32, Morehouse 0	
	Independent Results	Temple 38, Florida A&M 17
S. Connecticut 28, Cheyney 12		
West Virginia State 14, Concord 13		
CIAA Schedule		Hampton at Winston-Salem State 7 p.m.;
		Johnson C. Smith at Bowie State; North Carolina
		Central at Fayetteville State; St. Paul's at Virginia
	State; Elizabeth City State at Norfolk State;	
	Virginia Union at Livingstone.	
	MEAC Schedule	North Carolina A&T at Morgan State; Howard
University at South Carolina State; Grambling		
State at Bethune-Cookman.		
SWAC Schedule		Mississippi Valley State at Jackson State;
		Grambling State at Bethune-Cookman; Texas
		Southern at Alabama State; Prairie View A&M at
	Southern University.	
	SIAC Schedule	Fort Valley State at Morris Brown; Tuskegee at
		Clark; Knoxville at Wilmington, Ohio; Albany
State at Alabama A&M; Miles at Bishop.		
Independent Schedule		Florida A&M at Tennessee State.
		Central State 35, Winston-Salem State 8
		Grambling State 32, N.C. Central 24

*-Member of Ohio Valley Conference.