



**IF YOU ASK ME!**  
The shortest distance between two points is usually under construction!

The 1985 football campaign for black colleges kicks off this weekend, with three games scheduled for Saturday. The MEAC card matches Morgan State against Delaware State in Dover, Del.; A&T with Tennessee State in Nashville, and South Carolina State against Murray State in Murray, Ky.

There are no games scheduled in the CIAA this week.

Bill Davis is beginning his seventh year at South Carolina State against one of the Ohio Valley Conference's top teams. Murray is led by senior quarterback Kevin Sisk, who passed for 1,524 yards and 12 touchdowns in 12 starts a year ago.

Davis is also coming off one of his worst years as a head coach with a huge and talented line. Charles Glaze, the starting quarterback, has experience and his top receivers—David Lee Norman and tightend Robert Tylers—are of all-star calibre.



Bill Davis  
.....Veteran Bulldog coach

Bill's outfit is the preseason pick over Bethune-Cookman and Delaware State as the "team to beat" in the 1985 MEAC championship race.

Ten Charlotte athletes are working out with the Blue Bears of Livingstone College. Johnson C. Smith has only four native sons working out with its football squad. Lawrence Pettis, former football standout at North Carolina Central and a top recruiter for his school, has lured 19 local athletes to the Durham university. Winston-Salem State has recruited five Charlotteans and North Carolina A&T will not have a Charlotte native in its lineup for the first time in many moons.

The University of Houston is making the right moves. UH recently hired former NBA great Elvin Hayes, a Houston alumnus, who has been assigned to "counsel student-athletes with pro potential on dealing with agents and attorneys and adjusting to professional sports."

A Dallas attorney, Larry Hercules, sums up the tussles pro athletes have with money management. According to Hercules, "there aren't many good advisers out there to help athletes with their money, but there are a lot of people out there with deals."

A possible cure would be for the colleges to make it a requirement for athletes to take courses on money management, in addition to offering courses on selecting financial advisers and contract negotiators. I believe the players' unions should join this crusade by taking steps to establish standards for all agents and financial consultants. These people should be certified by the players' associations to further assure the athletes that competent, caring advisers are available to prevent them from getting into a financial strait jacket.

O.J., Frank and Joe deserve the lofty early rating they are receiving on "Monday Night Football." They work extremely well together!

The running Saint Louis Cardinals are speeding to a new major league stolen base record. The Redbirds pilfered 207 bases in their first 109 contests this season and their sensational rookie Vince Coleman, with 81 thefts, has stolen more bases than the Astros, Padres, Braves, Pirates and Giants.

College football launches its 1985 season this week with high expectations for a new high in attendance, more exposure on television and with several top name coaches on the hot seat. Reports are that Jackie Sherrill of Texas A&M, Bill Davis of South Carolina State, and Dick Crum of North Carolina need successful seasons to retain their positions.

Incidentally, several rule changes—most notably the liberalized use of arms and hands by blockers—will result in a stronger emphasis on the running game this fall.

The TV season begins tonight (Thursday) at 8 p.m. with Boston College clashing with Brigham Young in the Kickoff Classic at Giant Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The major New Year's Day Bowls have upped their "kitty" to a \$2 million payday for each team next January 1.

The Chicago Bears are considering donating a refrigerator to charity for each sack former Clemson star William Perry records. Amana, Whirlpool, and GE will make it possible by donating the appliances. Good luck, William! Atlanta Braves' pitcher, Pascual Perez, who has more than his share of problems this season, has paid about \$34,000 in fines and forfeited salary this year. He probably will view that as "mere peanuts" since he earns \$2,577.78 per day. Can you imagine earning that kind of money when he has a very poor 1-8 won and lost record, with a 6.24 earned run average? Talk about overpayment!

We should have more Eddie Murrays in our world! The popular Baltimore Orioles first baseman, who is the richest player in baseball in terms of earnings, signed a lucrative five-year contract worth more than \$2 million a year. He promptly shared his wealth with the people of Baltimore by donating \$500,000 to the city for the development of a camp for youth.

The strike didn't affect the attendance at baseball games. Surprised? Major league baseball attendance is up 532,000 in the American League and a little over 1,000,000 in the National League. The amazing New York Mets are showing the biggest increase, 578,000 in only 49 games.

## Eric Abrams Overwhelms Devon Berry

By James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer  
Fresh from a fourth place finish in the national championships at the American Tennis Association festivities in Washington, D.C., Eric Abrams polished his game with a 6-0, 6-0 win over Devon Berry in the semifinals of the Charlotte City Classic and followed that victory with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Chuck Whitley in the men's finals of the BATCH-sponsored tournament.

Abrams, who plays for East Mecklenburg's tennis team, has had a great summer finishing fourth in the state in the North Carolina Boys' Closed 18's and fourth in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association tennis tournament.

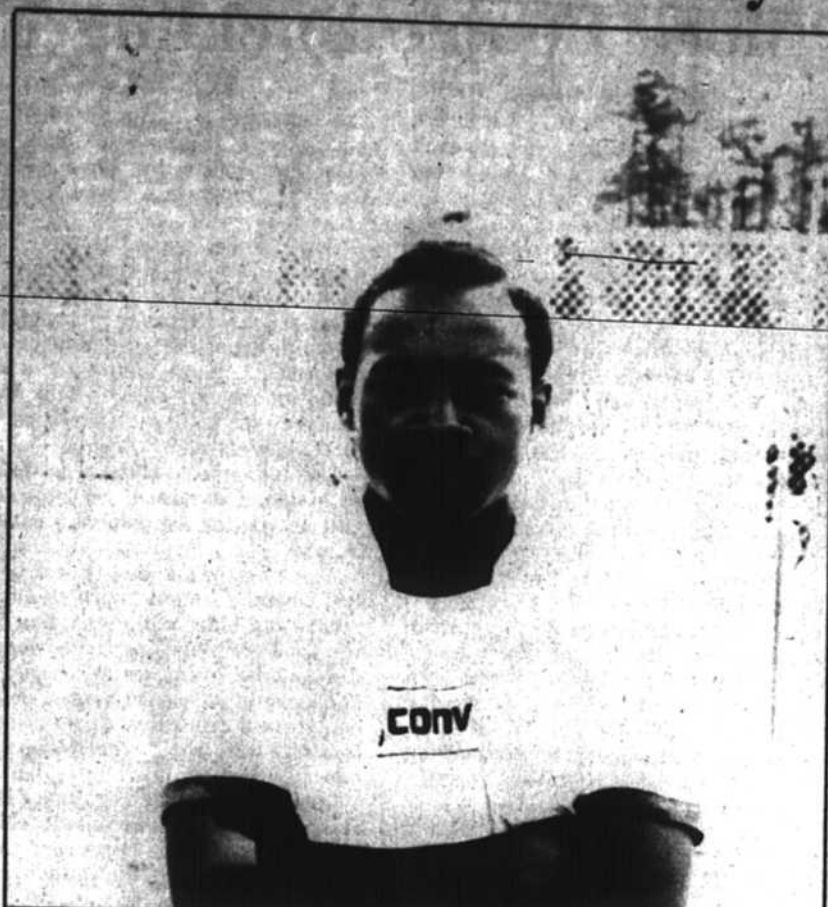
He is a rising senior at East and has played the number one position on the team for two years.

The son of Rudy and Joan Abrams said that he really wanted to play well in the Charlotte City Classic because he is interested in rising to new heights in his tennis career.

Abrams is considering attending Nick Bolleteri's tennis school in Florida. He has received a scholarship valued at \$1,000 per month, but would have to pay \$600 per month for the tuition.

"I would love to go," said Abrams, "but the price might be prohibitive."

Other winners in the Charlotte City Classic were Steve Collins, 6-0, 6-0, over Eddie Owens in junior boy 12's, Meredith Quinn, 6-1, 6-2, over Christian Franous in ladies, Cecil Brandon and Walter Kennedy over Steve Collins and Milton Castellanos, 6-4, 6-2, in junior boy dou-



Eric Abrams  
.....Rising senior at East

bles, Calvin Davis and Jugy Morgan, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, over David Yett and Meredith Quinn in mixed doubles and Eric Abrams and Calvin Davis, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, over Chuck Whitley and Stan Law in men's

doubles. The next BATCH-sponsored tournament will be September 14 and 15 at Hornets Nest Park. That will be the Southern Carolinas Open Championships.

## Simmons Is Satisfying Lifetime Goal

By James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer  
When Donald Simmons steps foot onto the turf at the University of South Carolina at Lancaster, he will be satisfying a lifetime goal and beginning the first stage that he hopes will take him to higher grounds in the athletic world.

The 6'2", 175 pounder from Olympic High School, where he averaged 17.9 points per game and six rebounds per game for the Trojans, is on full scholarship at the two-year institution.

"My goal is to get an associate degree from Lancaster and then transfer to a Division I school hopefully to play basketball," he informed.

Under coach Jim Thomas, the Lancaster team has been having a rough time lately but a recruiting program that has landed Simmons and Garinger standouts James Elmore and Aaron McKnight may prove fruitful for the team.

"I will be playing the wing," said Simmons.

"He mentioned that he would like to build the team around me," he continued. Simmons has spread out over the summer adding 20 pounds to his frame that has expanded to 46-inch shoulders, a 39½-inch chest, a 33-inch waist, 15-inch calves, and 22½-inch thighs. That's a lot of muscle for a young man, who weighed about 140 pounds in the 10th grade.

One of the reasons he picked Lancaster was because of the proximity to his home. He is only 29 minutes away from his Springfield

neighborhood. His father, George Simmons, formerly played at Second Ward High School and is given a lot of credit for his son's development.

"He took me to the hoop and really showed me how to play basketball," Simmons said. "He also talked to me after games about what I was doing right and what I was doing wrong. He was a great inspiration to me," he concluded.

Lancaster has about 700 students and no dorms. Simmons will share an apartment across the street from the campus with McKnight and Elmore.

One of his big obstacles will be playing against former Olympic teammate Antonio Howard.

Howard plays at Emanuel College in Georgia, one of the team's conference rivals.

Simmons was MVP of the Summer League last year and MVP and All-Tournament for the Trojans.

Coach Dave Johnson at Olympic helped him secure the scholarship to Lancaster by telling him the team was interested.

Simmons can throw the ball up. He shot 79 percent last year against Harding High School when he hit eight of 14 from the floor and a 75 percent from the line with three of four to score 19 against Independence.

His high games were 24 against Harding and 23 against Garinger.

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205/75R-14	66.35	60.97
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