

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A Charlotte Post Black History Month Achiever

McCullough: The Sportsman, The Coach

By Russell Clark
Post Staff Writer

As a kid growing up in the Fairview Homes Community in the late 30s, Charles McCullough acquired a indelible taste for sports. The well rounded athlete tested his talents in every game he could including baseball, basketball, football, golf and track which earned him a athletic scholarship.

Today, most people know West Charlotte coach McCullough as the fearless general who has guided the Lions' boys basketball team through many battles over his 28 years as head coach. But what a lot of people don't know is that high jumping propelled him to an athletic scholarship.

"I went to college at North Carolina Central University in 1951 on a track scholarship," he remembers. "When I got there, the coach had already over-extended his track scholarships so, I ended up with a baseball scholarship from the baseball coach who was also the athletic director."

While at NCCU, he had a sudden impact on the athletic department. As a tall, slender jumper, he set a school record with a 6'10" performance while also raking in many prestigious honors.

In 1956 he was the high jump champion in the Penn Relays with a jump of 6'8" and 3/4 inches. Later that year, he qualified for the Olympic Trials held at the Los Angeles Coliseum where he placed sixth with a leap of 6'7" and a 1/2. Only three jumpers made the team including one alternate, but it was still the highlight of his track career.

He remembers that experience with that "ah-those-were-the-good-old-days" look in his eyes.

"I didn't make the team but I'll never forget it because I got a chance to witness Charlie Pumas 7'0" jump which set a new world record. The old world record was 6'11" and plenty of guys were at that mark but he was the first person to clear 7'0."

At Central, his track coach was Dr. Leroy Walker who is still one of the top track and field experts in the world.

"He was an outstanding coach and a leader, who stressed perfection to his athletes."

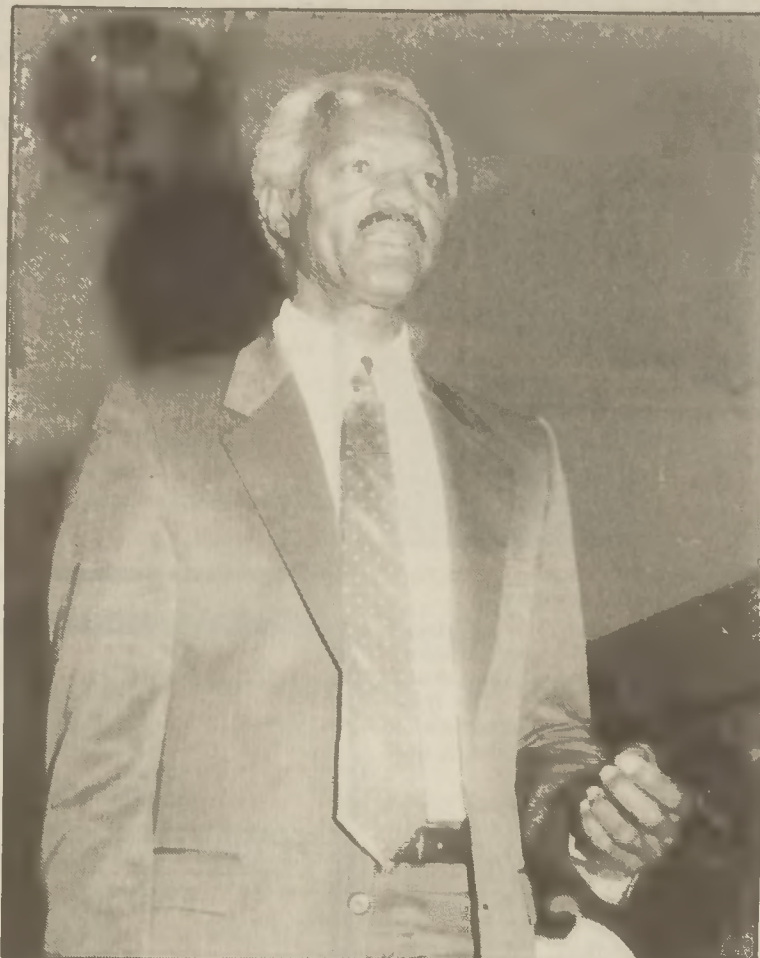


Photo by Frank J. Williams

McCullough, A leader of men.

In basketball, McCullough teamed with players like Sam Jones (formerly with the Boston Celtics) and Tex Harrison.

After his first two years at Central, he turned to the Army for a brief military experience in the infantry. While in the service, he was a member of the Third Army Championship Basketball Team and a member of the All-Army Track Team.

Upon return back to campus, he rejoined the basketball team and placed in the AAU National Track and Field Championships.

Before he left, he was averaging 14 points per game but afterwards, he was converted into a role player. "I was a defensive specialist and I always liked to check the other teams' best player. I remember when we played against Tennessee State and I held Seull Barnette to only nine points. Barnette was a great player who went on to play

several years for the New York Knicks."

Before going to college, the hard-driving youth was coached at W.C. by Jack Martin.

"He was the first coach West Charlotte ever had," McCullough points out. "He coached all girls and boys sports at the time and did a great job. We used to look forward to basketball season be-

cause he always took us on at least one out of town trip each season," he relates with a smile.

Perhaps these fun memories has kept him at W.C. for so many years. As a coach, his record currently stands at 434 wins versus 211 losses.

The highlight of any high school coach is having a perfect season and winning the state championship. In 1965 his team won the title while his 1986 team went 29-0 and became the first team to win the state championship in the Dean Smith Center in Chapel Hill.

When not busy at school, he enjoys playing golf and bowling. "These are some of the long range sports I try to stress to my players not for competition but for fun."

When asked how long he plans to continue coaching, he replies, "I'm interested in starting a new career in the next four to six years. I have a lot of things in mind but I look forward to a new career challenge."

Support Our Advertisers
SHOP THE POST!

LESTER B. WALLACE, JR., M.D.
Practice of
**OBSTETRICS And
GYNECOLOGY
(Female Medicine)**



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

**Randolph
Medical
Building**

1928 Randolph Road, Suite 308
Charlotte, NC 28207

Hours By Appointment

M-T-F 10-5pm W 11-6 pm

(704) 334-8777

**RUSSELL AND SHEELY
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW**

Vernon A. Russell Concord native, North Carolina Central University and UNC Law School Graduate. Extensive experience in trial matters.

Michael A. Sheely Charlotte resident for more than 15 years, University of Massachusetts and UNC Law School Graduate. More than 14 years experience in extensive Federal and State Court trial and appellate work.

Celebrate Black History! Live it daily, year round!

General Practice of Law with Emphasis on:

Personal Injury-Auto Accidents-Criminals-DWI-Traffic Tickets Domestic-Real Estate- Wills-Business Matters-Employments

730 E. Trade St.
Law Building-Suite 418
376-6591

Excellent Services
Will Be Provided

17 Cabarrus Ave. W.
Concord, N.C.
786-8116

"A people who do not know their history are doomed to repeat it"
Frederick Douglass



Harold W. Hardison for Lt. Governor

North Carolina




Senator Hardison has a history of genuine concern for all North Carolinians. He is concerned about education, economic development, and better paying jobs. When Senator Hardison is elected Lt. Governor, his history of effective performance and service will be repeated and all North Carolinians will be the beneficiaries.

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT HAROLD W. HARDISON

PAPER TOWN
Gift wrap, Ribbon, Bows, Boxes, Tumblers, Napkins
Cups, Plates Catering, Baking, Shipping Supplies.
4426 Independence • 568-6663 • Also in Pineville
M-F 9-6 Sat. 9:30-3:30 MC, VISA

BOB WHITE makes it easier.
With down-to-earth talk about insurance and low rates to match.
Outlet Square Office Gallery
Suite 603, S. Independence Blvd.,
Charlotte, N.C. 28204
Bus. (704) 376-3479, 376-3484 Res. (704) 596-2273

Leave It to The Good Hands People.
Allstate
Allstate Insurance Company



BOB WHITE, Agent

We Salute Black Achievers

AACH
ARCHITECTS / PLANNERS
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

ARCHITECTURE • SITE & MASTER PLANNING
• SPACE PLANNING
• GRAPHIC DESIGN
• FEASIBILITY STUDIES

TIMOTHY McMULLEN
MICHAEL MARTIN
1300 EAST MOREHEAD STREET
SUITE 210
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28204
(704) 333-1211

Carole B. Ricks, A.C.S.W.
of Carole's Corner offers
Individual, Parent/Child & Marriage
COUNSELING
By Appointment Only
333-0140