

Herb White

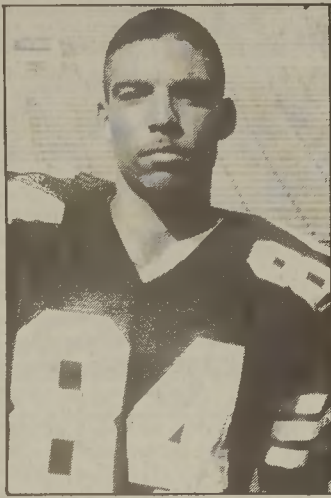
Post Sports Editor

Ben Johnson: A Disgrace

Some recent thoughts:
As the Olympics wind down, it's obvious that two things will be remembered from the Seoul Games.
Ben Johnson being stripped of his gold medal in the 100 meters for steroid use and the Soviet Union's upset (again) of the United States in basketball.
First, the Ben Johnson fiasco. The world record holder in the 100 dominated the field in winning the premiere Olympic event with a mind-boggling 10.79 to eclipse the world mark. Johnson, Jamaican-born but now a Canadian, boasted the new mark would last 100 years, but it managed only two days due to the revelation of steroid use.
The International Olympic Committee (IOC) tested Johnson's urine sample twice, with Canadian officials in attendance the second time to verify the results. Johnson tested positive and subsequently lost the gold medal and the gold that awaited in endorsements. He was also banned from international competition for two years, which could jeopardize his career.
The episode is described as a national tragedy in Canada, and rightly so. Johnson was Canada's main man, the country's biggest sports hero with hockey star Wayne Gretzky's migration to Los Angeles. You can't help but feel sorry for the millions who admired the man, but maybe in some way, he did us all a favor by getting caught.
No one should be allowed to get away with the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Not the world record holder in the 100 meters, not the third-string high school quarterback in small-town America. The same goes for mind-altering and addictive drugs like cocaine.
Medical experts agree that steroids can cause life-threatening disorders later in life, long after the glow of victory has worn off. And for a world that is short on heroes, why should the few we have want to cut their lives short for medals and shoe endorsements?
The ironic thing is that Carl Lewis, the new gold medalist, will probably never know if he could have whipped Johnson straight up. Maybe he could, maybe not.
The United States loss to the Soviets in basketball isn't a national embarrassment, but a warning: If you want to win, assemble a team with more than three months' playing time under its belt.
Georgetown's John Thompson put his stamp on this team, and that stamp ultimately did them in. The U.S. went for inside power and defense, a good combination under good circumstances. But the Americans didn't have a monopoly on inside strength and was lacking in outside shooters who could have negated the Soviet advantage there.
Hersey Hawkins, the U.S.'s best long-distance shooter, was on the bench with a knee injury and Thompson didn't have a consistent deep threat behind him.

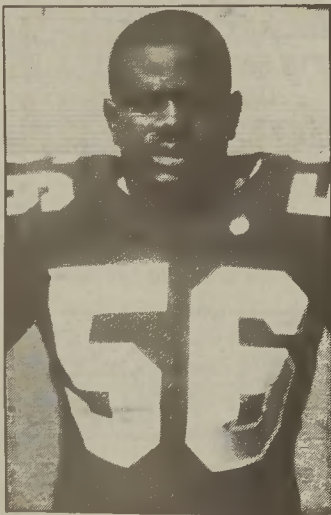
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Golden Bulls Of The Week



Weinberg

Joachim Weinberg is a 6-1, 170 pound wide receiver from Hampton, Virginia. The junior caught five passes for 64 yards in the loss to Bowie State. His longest was 19 yards.



Capers

Ronald Capers came within one tackle of setting a school record with 20 tackles. He had 11 unassisted, nine assisted of which three were for losses, a fumble recovery, a pass interception and a blocked punt to play one of the finest games of his career.

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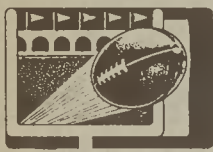
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