



Chris Cobbs

Ali lives—and they still haven't found anything white that can give him a fight, Lester Maddox and his axe-handles notwithstanding.

Jerry Quarry was sorry and Maddox was "mourning," but Ali was proudly fighting for 22-million black people.

It took the champ less than three rounds to make up for three idle years. He was fast as the Ali of 1967, and no other fighter could ever make that statement.

It was worth a million dollars for the finest boxer in two decades to lose 25-pounds and bloody the face of a man who was supposedly the top white in the ring today. Quarry must have been seeing dollar signs, too, because he never saw what punched him out.

They should have let Quarry use a can of mace, or at least a night stick. That might have reduced the odds. At that, he probably couldn't have won even if Bull Connor had been the referee.

Seldom Challenged

The only whites who ever seriously challenged Ali were a slick TV man and the justices of the Supreme Court. Madison Avenue and the United States legal system got in a few body punches, anyway.

Broadcaster Howard Cosell used to torment the champ when his videotaped fights were telecast. At least Ali's tongue got a workout. Then the Army decided to let Ali do some sparring for it. He declined and the court moved in. Ali was backed on the ropes but he kept swinging.

In the intervening three years he has been fighting to stay out of jail for draft evasion.

Various boxing commissions and authorities took away his world heavyweight title without laying a glove on him, which was about par for the course.

When the novel called "The Pretenders" came out, everyone thought it was going to be about the heirs to Ali's title. At any rate, the book was better than most of the men who vied in the "tournament" that selected his official successor.

Ali, in the meantime, toured college campuses and talked with thousands of students. In the process, he seemed to mature and abandoned the old jive, a mixture of jokes and poetry.

Return To Ring

When it became apparent, about a year ago, that Ali wouldn't mind returning to the ring, all the patriot-bigots in the country with access to an auditorium banded together and denied him a fight site.

Finally Atlanta made ramshackle Municipal Auditorium available, and 5,000 people would get a chance to see his return. That was roughly comparable to providing a few dozen toilets for last summer's Atlanta Pop Festival: it was better than nothing.

Ali had ballooned to 240 pounds, but because he did not indulge in "bad women, whiskey and nightclubs," as he said, his body did not deteriorate. The muscles got soft and he accumulated the extra weight, but six weeks of vigorous conditioning took care of that.

Ali sought "to make no mistakes in preparing for Quarry, running harder and sacrificing more than ever."

He got "crazy with loneliness, though, missing the times with the black power groups and the white hippies at the student union building," as Sports Illustrated reported last week.

Black Power Symbol

Ali saw himself as a black power symbol and his fears were not so much for himself as for his race. "I'm not just fighting one man, I'm fighting a lot of men, who'll be rejoicing and jumpin' up and down and hollerin' and just rollin' under beds and chairs," should he lose, the magazine continued.

The former Cassius Clay, who made the heralded switch to the Islamic religion after he won the world title, was also motivated by a desire "to please Allah." He was adamant about not letting "court decisions determine my life and providing for my family so they won't have it as difficult as I did."

Equipped with this set of desires and more boxing tools than he will ever need, Ali certainly had the edge over Quarry. It was a straight right hand that opened the wound that resulted in a merciful TKO for Quarry. But, as Ali said, "it was more than a win for a fighter—it was a social victory."

If only Quarry's blood, which he will never miss, could indeed make up for three centuries of black setbacks outside the boxing ring...

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Heels Tackle Virginia

Dooley: Homecoming Win Vital

by Al Thomas
Assistant Sports Editor

The Tar Heels' football outlook took a dramatic turn for the worse with last Saturday's loss to Wake Forest.

Before that game, UNC coach Bill Dooley said a win against the Deacons was "vital if we are to be in contention for the Atlantic Coast Conference championship."

Now, with the 14-13 defeat a matter of record, Dooley said Tuesday, "a win against Virginia this week is vital if we are to have any type of season."

No longer was the emphasis on the ACC championship. With the Tar Heels 4-3 overall and 2-2 in conference play, Dooley's hopes lie in having a "respectable season," not a championship season.

"There's no excuse for us losing the Wake Forest game," Dooley said. "To be quite frank about it, the reason we've lost three in a row is that we've been unable to come up with the big play."

"That's been our downfall," he continued. "When there has been a critical situation on the field, we haven't had the big play on offense or defense."

Carolina's seeming inability to come up with the big play was not all that upset Dooley about the Wake Forest game, however.

Immediately following the game, Dooley said he would protest the officiating, but did not give the specific reason for the protest.

After Wake's quarterback Larry Russell said in an interview after the game that his teammate Larry Hopkins had pushed him into the end zone for their

first touchdown (which is illegal) Dooley discussed the incident on his television show Sunday.

"It wasn't in very good taste for me to publicly criticize the officials," Dooley said Tuesday. "I do expect them to be good, though, and the officiating was not good."

"I'll never again publicly criticize the officials," he continued, "and wouldn't have mentioned the pushing play if Russell hadn't talked about it in his interview."

"I am protesting it through the official channels, including a lot of other complaints about the game, too."

Dooley noted, however, that his players have forgotten the Wake Forest game, concerning themselves with streaking Virginia.

The Cavaliers have won three games in a row, and now sport a 4-3 overall record,

the same as Carolina's.

"Virginia has a sophomore quarterback, Bill Troup, who gives them the big play passing the ball," Dooley said. "They run a multiple style offense, using about every offensive formation in the book. They keep you off balance."

The Cavaliers began the year with quarterback Larry Albert in command, but during the last few games have primarily used Troup, who stands 6-5, 215 pounds. Albert stayed mainly with a running game, while Troup is a passing quarterback.

Virginia's main strength during its recent battles has been the passing game, with Bob Bischoff, 6-3, 195 pounds, and Dave Sullivan, 6-0, 180 pounds, doing most of the receiving.

The Cavaliers' main weakness has been in its defensive secondary, however, the same as Carolina's.



The eight finalists in the Homecoming Court met the press Tuesday at Coach Bill Dooley's weekly luncheon at a local restaurant. Left to right are Donna Frye, Wendy Boulton, Eva Fregakis, Ann Welfare, Linda Beukema, Laurie Venning, Christy King and Tess West. Dooley stood aside while they posed.

Frosh Prospects

Virginians Star For UNC

by Mark Whicker
Sports Writer

Yes, Virginia, Kent Merritt got away from the Carolina recruiters, but enough Old Dominion prospects came south to give UNC another topnotch freshman team.

The Tar Babies came back to upend Virginia 22-12 last Friday, and with injuries quickly healing, they appear ready to fulfill their potential.

Merritt, the 9.3 sprinter from Charlottesville, was held to 73 yards by the UNC defense.

Every time he tried to sweep the ends, a couple of transplanted Virginians, Ted Levenz and Terry Taylor, were there to meet him.

"Virginia wanted Taylor badly," says Coach Moyer Smith, "and for that matter Notre Dame wanted him too."

Smith describes the Harrisonburg native as a "real winner" and "one of the best linemen to ever come out of Virginia."

Leverenz, from Alexandria, is playing defensive end for the first time in his career, and maybe the last time too.

At 6'2" and 190 pounds, he could be outstanding at defensive back, wide receiver, linebacker or running back.

State, Wake Forest and Virginia backs know that Leverenz has learned his

position quickly. "He's one of our blue-chippers," lauds Smith, "one of the tremendous athletes on the team."

Another Virginia quarterback John Klise from Portsmouth, tormented the Cavalier defense.

He hit six of 13 passes for 37 yards and ran for 82 in 15 attempts, but Smith didn't have to see the statistics to point out Klise's best quality.

"He showed a lot of poise," says the coach, "in knowing when to pass and how to hit the open man."

"He's instinctively good—he already knows a lot of things we can't teach."

Klise's instincts gave the Tar Babies their go-ahead touchdown with five minutes left in the fourth quarter.

After sprinting 21 yards, Klise then handed off to fullback Sammy Johnson on the 11-yard line. Johnson fumbled, but the alert QB scooped it up on one bounce and darted into the end zone.

Although Klise passed well when he had to, Smith still thinks the freshmen need a better air attack.

"We've got to throw more, but there's not much time for us to work as a unit. And now that standard time is back and it gets darker earlier, it will be harder on us."

Fortunately, ends Jim Steele and Colt Hitchcock are back in the lineup.

Steele's thumb injury and Hitchcock's severe sinus condition kept them out of the first two games. Now Scott Reynolds, at 6-4 and 215, can return to tackle.

Reynolds made a leaping grab for a two-point conversion after Klise's touchdown. Incidentally, he's from Falls Church, Va.

Since tackle John Frerotte suffered a knee injury, Reynolds' move to the interior comes just in time.

The freshmen meet Richmond next Friday at 1:30 in Kenan Stadium, then end the season at Duke the week after.

Although the blocking and passing could stand some improvement, the Tar Babies look stronger than at any other time this fall.

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