

### Ex-NFL Player Helps Students Beat The Odds

YUMA, Ariz. (AP)—The odds black and Hispanic students face of graduating from high school can look like those against a young athlete making it to the National Football League.

So says John Kimbrough, a former NFL wide receiver now helping students beat those odds.

Despite standing 5'6" and weighing 140 upon graduating from high school, Kimbrough found himself huddling with O.J. Simpson on the Buffalo Bills after attending St. Cloud State College in Minnesota. He might not have been the first member of his family to get through college had not some special people taken an interest in him along the way.

Kimbrough was one NFL player who got involved with the Goals for Youth program when it started 10 years ago. Now he is the program's regional coordinator based out of San Bernardino, Calif. This year, Kimbrough worked with Kofa High and Somerton Elementary school migrant students at risk of dropping out.

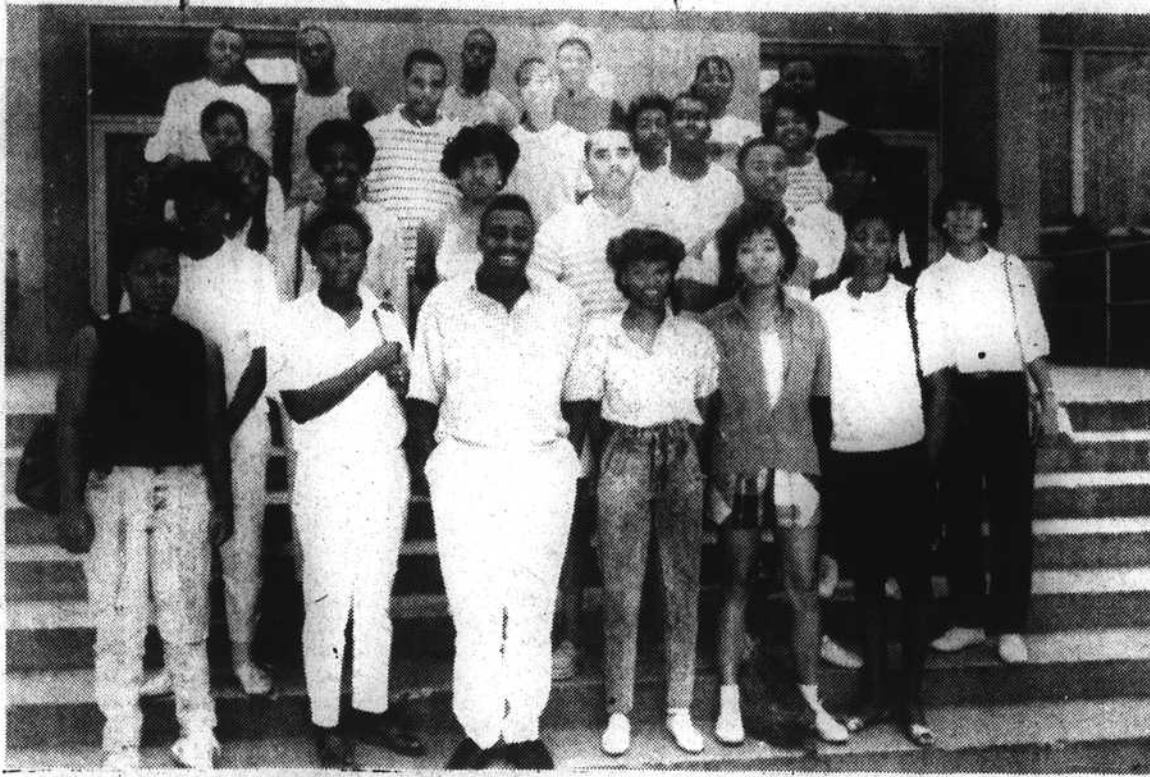
Goals for Youth is aimed primarily at keeping migrant students in school and working toward goals. They can succeed, he said. "They just haven't found the motivation... (Success) is no more than practice, practice, practice."

In his current summer program, Kimbrough works with about 40 students headed for the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades, said Sue Ochs, migrant dropout advisor for the Yuma Union High School District.

"Hopefully, what the young students learn will carry them on through high school," she said.

At Kofa this spring, Kimbrough started with 25 students and finished with 17. "Some found it a little more difficult," he said.

But those students who stayed in said they got more out of the program than just better grades.



REGISTRATION FOR FRESHMEN—Raleigh-Wake County during the Freshman Pre-registration held recently on the and surrounding area high school students pose for a picture campus of Saint Augustine's College.

### "Live Wire" Designed To Encourage Youths

March 27 witnessed the premier broadcast of "Live Wire," a live talk show for youth ages 8-20 which airs every Sunday at 3 p.m. on Raleigh's WSHA-FM 88.9.

This innovative programming is the brainchild of Dr. Emeka Emekauwa, assistant professor of communications, Shaw University, and general manager of WSHA-FM. Dr. Emekauwa envisioned a program that allows Wake County youth the opportunity to express their views concerning school, home life, community and general society.

WSHA-FM sponsored a contest to name the program and Robert Warner, a senior at Enloe High School, submitted the winning entry. Encouraged by their graphic arts teacher, Ms. Nancy Carty, Robert and many of his classmates participated in the contest and were the first guests on "Live Wire."

Other guests have included students from Lincoln Heights, Lucille Hunter, Emma Conn schools, teens from the Partners program, the Girls' Club, and the Enloe Gospel Choir. Regular guests on "Live Wire" are the Y-Teens from the Garner Road YMCA. These active teens have discussed such topics as "Teens and Abuse," "Fads, Fashions and Feelings" and "Interracial Dating."

The moderator and co-producer of "Live Wire," Janet Howard, volunteered to work with the program because of its importance to youth and the community.

"Live Wire" is an extension of the lives of our youth which the community needs to hear," said Ms. Howard. "The youth of our area have a lot to say and need to be heard. It is through the discussions and the listening that we may reach solutions or improvements in society. I strongly believe in our youth. We all should believe in them because they are our future. I am delighted to have this opportunity to work at WSHA-FM and with Dr. Emekauwa, a well-trained and seasoned professional and academician."

Ms. Howard would like to see more student involvement with the production and interviewing tasks; however, those plans are long-range.

### Wake Tech Advances In High Tech Opportunity

What do a computer operator and an aerospace engineer have in common?

Both careers rank among the top 10 high-tech opportunities for the next decade, says Trends magazine.

That is good news for graduates of the computer operations curriculum at Wake Technical Community College, says Mike Cylar, department head.

Some 241,000 Americans with one to two years of technical training now hold jobs as computer operators, according to Trends. Between now and 1995, the field is expected to grow 50 percent.

Cylar says job opportunities for his computer operations graduates are especially good in the fast-growing Research Triangle area.

"There are jobs that must be filled, and we're encouraging anyone who is interested in the career to apply now for our fall quarter," Cylar says.

Trends lists \$16,000 as the current average starting salary of a com-

puter operator. Cylar says the salary range here is \$16,000 to \$23,000.

"Advanced and more technical areas of computer operation salaries are higher," he says. "These positions normally become available as an individual's computer experience grows."

"Certain skills are mandatory for today's industries," he adds. "Employee creativity is very important. Computer operators must be able to develop more effective and efficient methods of performing a task. It is also essential that computer operators know how to analyze problems and initiate the correct actions to solve those problems."

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### Last Surviving Racist School Closing Doors

BELLE CHASE, La. (AP)—The last surviving school set up to dodge federal demands for racial integration in Plaquemines Parish has closed, officials said.

School Principal Monica Wertz said enrollment at River Oaks Academy was about 300, down from 600 two years ago, and the staff of 35 was given walking papers Thursday.

"It's kind of traumatic," she said. "I guess we're all going to go out and look for jobs."

The school was built along with four others as an alternative to public education at the height of the civil rights movement in 1966. The schools were the brainchild of Judge Leander Perez, legendary political strongman of Plaquemines Parish, which covers

the delta of the Mississippi River. Enraged by federal court orders to desegregate public schools, Perez had the private academies built and closed to blacks.

Parish Councilman Benny Rousselle said the academies nearly killed the public school system. White teachers and students abandoned the public schools, which were stripped of supplies and left to blacks and a handful of others.

"The [public] schools were a skeleton," said Rousselle.

Rousselle said he graduated in 1967 with only four classmates from Belle Chase High, which is now overcrowded. The parish has expressed interest in buying the River Oaks property to ease overcrowding.

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### What is the political future for Black Americans?

### Election '88: A Black Perspective

Panelists include NY Congressman Ed Towns, NC Representative Dan Blue, Washington Political Analyst Dr. Linda Williams. Taped before a live audience at Raleigh's Martin Street Baptist Church.

Hear the concerns of national black leaders and political figures as they examine 1988's electoral process.

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