

# SPORTS

## Blacks Denied Top Positions In Pro Sports

**BY BARRY COOPER**  
**PRO SPORTS' GOOD OLE BOY SYSTEM ALIVE AND WELL**  
 Quickly: Blacks are passed over for top sports management positions because they a) lack the necessities; b) are not interested; or c) because in pro sports, it's not what you know but who you know.

If you picked any answer other than the last one, then you immediately qualify for free membership in the Al Campanis/Jimmy "The Greek" Fan Club.

You remember, of course, that Campanis and the Greek, through separate but equally stupid statements, told us that blacks should quit bellyaching about wanting better sports jobs and simply stick to running for touchdowns or soaring for slam dunks.

Of course, that is a ridiculous position to take, and Campanis and the Greek received the national flogging they so richly deserved. But despite a public outcry and massive media attention paid to the issue after their statements, meaningful minority hiring in pro sports and by major colleges is practically nil.

There are no numbers available, but suffice it to say that administrators are conducting business as usual with mostly white staffs.

A year ago, the Washington Redskins hired former Howard University sports information director Donnie Tuck as their public relations director. Sadly, that marriage didn't last and Tuck departed after nine months.

Tuck was the NFL's first black PR director. He was inexperienced, and by his own admission, made some mistakes. Now it will be interesting to see whether the league forges ahead in search of other black candidates or whether the team bosses, aware of the Redskins/Tuck situation, will sit back in their chairs and say, "See, told you so."

Others may not agree, but the feeling here is that when a black man or woman is hired for a job, they have a responsibility to represent only themselves, not the entire black race. If one black stumbles, it does not mean the entire race has suffered a setback. Each candidate must be based on his merit and performance. Nothing more.

Without a doubt, pro teams are scared to death of the minority hiring issue. They just don't want to deal with it, gun shy over the possibility of hiring a minority candidate who might not work out and cause a ruckus on his/her way out the door.

That's a cowardly excuse to hide behind, but it's happening. With all this in mind, it is with keen interest that we are watching the arrival of four new teams into the National Basketball Association over the next two seasons. Now here's a chance for pro sports to make some real progress, what with these teams having not hired a soul when they were awarded franchises.

Three of the clubs—Miami, Charlotte and Orlando—nearly are fully staffed. Sadly, few minorities have been hired.

Give the Charlotte-Hornets credit. They hired Gene Littles, who is black, as player personnel director, a key spot. Clayton Smith, also black, left Florida A&M to become the Hornets' ticket director, a critically important job.

Orlando has hired one black, a secretary. The Miami Heat have a few blacks working in clerical areas.

The expansion teams are proving that who you know is as important as any factor. In Miami, virtually every key front-office staffer is either from New Jersey or has ties to Heat managing general partner Lew Schaffel. In Orlando, virtually all the top jobs have gone to people who worked with general manager Pat Williams in Philadelphia. In Charlotte, those with ties to vice president Carl Sheer have had the upper hand.

Unquestionably, racism exists in pro sports, but minorities can get only so much mileage out of that crutch. Then it's time to move on. Young minorities, particularly those working at historically black schools as publicists, have to knock on doors. Put the heat on them. Volunteer for those low-paying jobs. Get a foot in the door. Get to know people. Become a part of the clique.

What we need is a flood of qualified applicants racing into the doors of pro teams, staying on top of the scene, understanding what it takes to break into the clique. It's called networking, not quite as effective as eliminating racism, but then, that's not a possibility, is it?

## Eagles' Player Near Goal

Veteran wide receiver Billy "White Shoes" Johnson and Charlie Brown were released by the Indianapolis Colts before even playing a down for last year's AFC Eastern Conference champs.

Johnson, a 13-year vet, is the NFL's all-time leader in punt returns (279) and punt-return average (3.291). Brown has 220 career receptions in six years with Washington and Atlan-



**HALL OF FAME**—Former Pittsburgh Pirate slugger Willie Stargell was in Raleigh recently to discuss and participate in plans for the World Home Black Hall of Fame to be located in Southeast Raleigh. Stargell was a member of the Pirates championship teams in the '70s. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

## Isiah Thomas Becomes Role Model For Youth

As the new spokesperson for the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Michigan, Isiah Thomas is a great addition to the Coca-Cola family because of his personal excellence, not only as an athlete, but also as a great human being.

In his quiet and determined way, Isiah has won the heart of Michigan and much of the nation. He has become an All-American role model whose concern for today's youth has been expressed in numerous ways.

"We chose Isiah because he's a natural," said Heide Gardner, business development manager for the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Michigan. "Young people identify strongly with his success and his honest demeanor."

The youngest of nine children, he grew a "team player" on the West Side of Chicago. Although his neighborhood was plagued with many urban ills, the close-knit love and compassion of the Thomas family nurtured Isiah's drive to succeed. Isiah's deep love and great respect for his mother, Mary, who has appeared with him in several public service announcements, is well known by many of Detroit's youth.

Isiah, Detroit Pistons' captain and point guard, inspired all Pistons' fans by leading his team to a crushing defeat of the Boston Celtics and winning the NBA Eastern Conference championship for the first time in nearly 30 years. His display of grit and guts was witnessed and applauded by millions as he played with injuries and set an all-time scoring record in the sixth game of the NBA world championship series against the Los Angeles Lakers.

"Isiah is an example of what hard work and dedication can give you in life—he's an All-Star on and off the court," said Gardner.

As basketball fans braced for game three of the Pistons-Lakers showdown and with Father's Day on the minds of many, Isiah and his wife of three years, Lynn, welcomed their firstborn, a son whom they named Joshua. Isiah and Lynn, college sweethearts, spend much of their time at their Bloomfield Hills home relaxing with Joshua, their new "little dribbler."

Isiah, who received a degree in criminal justice from Indiana University in 1987, was drafted in the first round (second overall) in 1981 by consecutive field goals in one game.

## Sugar Ray Says He Refuses To Retire Again

Three-time champion Sugar Ray Leonard, who has quit boxing four times, said, "I'll never retire again," while announcing yet another comeback, this time against World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champ Donnie Lalonde.

"I told you guys some time ago I was going to try to retire," Leonard told the press conference. "I tried. It didn't work."

Leonard, 32, last retired after his April 6, 1987 defeat of Marvin Hagler for Hagler's WBC middleweight title. He will contend for both Lalonde's light-heavyweight title and the WBC's new 168-pound super-middleweight crown. A win would make Leonard the only fighter to win titles at five different weight classes. Thomas Hearns is the only fighter to win titles at four weight classes.

No date nor site were set for the fight, which could take place in early November. Leonard and Lalonde will fight for a percentage of the gross. Mike Trainer, attorney for Leonard, said the former champ will make his biggest paycheck. He earned \$12 million when he defeated Thomas Hearns in 1981.

Ironically, Hearns, who lost his last bout to Iran Barkley by KO, is seeking a bout with World Boxing Association super-middleweight champ Fulgencio Obalafia in October. A win would beat Leonard to the punch in capturing a fifth title.

the Pistons, with whom he has a 10-year contract. He has been characterized as one of the outstanding basketball players ever to play the game. In his seven years as a Pistons point guard, he has become the team leader in both assists and steals, and ranks third on the all-time Pistons scoring list. In 1984 and 1986, Isiah was chosen most valuable player in the NBA All-Star Game. He set the Pistons' record for scoring 13 recognizable Motor City representatives, particularly as a result of his "No Crime Day" program.

"Isiah and Coke are sure to become a winning combination," said Gardner. "Together they will provide refreshing entertainment and excitement for Michigan-area soft drink consumers."



**ISIAH THOMAS TEAMING UP**—Isiah Thomas and The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Michigan team up to promote the "All-Star Refresher," including newspaper advertisements.

## World's Fastest Men Make Dash To Begin Race For Olympic Gold

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP)—It was billed as a night of supreme rivalry, and it turned out just that way.

But it was the match of Butch Reynolds against Lee Evans' 20-year-old record that provided the thunder. Reynolds' performance in the 400 meters highlighted the battle of contemporary sprinters on a night that pitted the two fastest men in the world against each other, sprinter Carl Lewis (USA) and Ben Johnson (Canada).

Reynolds overshadowed both

## YWCA Sponsors Swim Courses For All Ages

The Raleigh Special Populations Program and the YWCA, 1012 Oberlin Road, are sponsoring two swim courses of instruction to persons of all ages who are either mentally or physically impaired.

The courses are designed to assess individual current skill levels and set challenging goals. The courses will be taught on a one-to-one swimmer/instructor basis with instructors from the Special Populations Program and the YWCA staff. Classes will be held on eight consecutive Tuesdays beginning Sept. 27 from 4-4:30 p.m. for mentally handicapped individuals and on eight consecutive Thursdays beginning Sept. 29 from 4-4:30 p.m. for physically handicapped individuals.

Registration will be held beginning Aug. 29 at the YWCA, Oberlin Road. A \$16 class fee plus a current YWCA membership will be charged to each participant. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis with a limit of six per class. A swimsuit, towel and swim cap are needed by each participant. For more information contact the Special Populations Program at 755-6832 or the YWCA at 828-3205.

## Coach "Bill" Collick Emerging As Most Outstanding In Ranks

**BY AL HARGROVE**  
 Staff Writer

Our MEAC Preview shifts to the rolling hills of the Delaware Valley. At this instance, we focus in on one of the truly up-and-coming college football coaches in the ranks. On the campus of Delaware State University in Dover, Del., head coach William "Bill" Collick, 36, is emerging as one of the outstanding young black coaches in the nation. Entering his fourth season at Delaware State College, Collick has compiled an amazing 23-9 record. The record speaks for itself, establishing Collick as one of the best in Division I-AA.

Previously, Collick served as defensive coordinator and wrestling coach (and won the MEAC title) for the Hornets, from 1981-84. During his tenure on the Delaware State campus, the Hornets have fashioned one of the better defensive units in Division I-AA. Collick has also produced the only MEAC title for the school by capturing the '85 league title.

Bill Collick is probably one of the least known and most under-publicized coaches in the nation. For the past three years, Collick has kept the Hornets in the midst of the MEAC title chase, challenging powerful Howard University to the wire in '87. Delaware State finished 7-3 overall, 4-1 in the MEAC. In the season finale, the Hornets had a chance to finish their MEAC season unblemished. But it wasn't meant to be, as Howard University pulled out a 12-7 victory. True to the test, Delaware State held Howard to their lowest point total of the season in that game.

Now, after having helped the Hornets to a league title in two different sports, Collick has his sights on another MEAC football championship and a Division I-AA playoff berth.

The Hornets will start the '88 cam-

aign trying to remold yet another strong defensive unit. The loss of six starters on defense may hurt. Key players gone from the team have left Delaware State with large holes to be filled. Gone are defensive stalwarts Robert Presbury and Lybrant Robinson. These two bookends in the Hornets' defensive line will be hard to replace. Their physical ability will of course be sorely missed, but it was the leadership that they provided that could hurt the most.

Also gone are top defensive back William Sheppard and linebackers Derek Andrews and Kevin Bryant. The loss of that many quality athletes on defense is cause enough to make a coach wonder long into the night about his forthcoming season. But Collick and defensive coordinator Gregory McLaurin will try to reassemble the unit. If that isn't enough to worry about, Collick will also be without the school's all-time leading rusher, Terrence Hoover, who was a senior in 1987.

The hub of the defense will be built around junior linebacker Eric Wainwright, a Penn State transfer. Wainwright was sensational in his first season for the Hornets. At 6'0", 220, he was all over the place. He scooped up a first even in the MEAC—three rookie of the week honors last season. In the course of the season Wainwright (who from now on will be known as "Painwright" to his opponents) registered 62 tackles, 24 unassisted, along with five interceptions, five pass breakups and two quarterback sacks for -20 yards.

At the other linebacker slot, 6'4", 215 Marvin Bright most likely will move over from his defensive back spot in '87. Bright smashed opposing players for a total of 64 tackles, five sacks, one interception and one fumble recovery. Filling out the linebacker corps are 6'2", 215 O'Neal

Pressley and 6'1", 225 Craig Parsley. The resurrection of the defensive line will start with the defensive end slots. Tentatively penciled in are Steve Rose, 6'3", 250, and Malcolm Showell, 6'0", 250. These two sophomores saw limited action last season. Showell played in eight games, while Rose appeared in two for Delaware State.

In the middle of the trenches, two more sophomores will be heavily counted on. Paul Harris and Corey Felton both weigh in at 250 lbs. Coach Collick stated at the recent media gathering, "Defense is probably our biggest weakness. We will have to depend on sophomores to do the job."

If there is any noticeable slackoff in play across the line then Collick may spring one of his redshirt freshmen into action. Greg Johnson, at 6'2", 280, might get a chance to mix it up on the line.

In the secondary, junior Reggie Johnson, 5'11", 175, 4.6 speed in the 40, matches up against the opposition's deep threats. Johnson played in all 10 games last season, recording 21 tackles, with four interceptions and six pass break-ups.

At the other corner, junior Elvis Hines returns after playing in nine contests for the Hornets. Hines notched 24 tackles in '87.

Mark Ware will fill out the secondary at the free safety spot. Ware is a ballhawk (three interceptions in '87) who has the potential to be an all-conference player, according to the coaching staff. Ware is a 6'1", 185 junior from Hyattsville, Md.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Hornets will try to move on without Hoover. "We will pass the ball more this season," said Collick. At the quarterback position, Darren Felton ended '87 on a high note for Delaware State. Felton was impressive down the stretch. At 6'1", 210, he will try to balance out Delaware State's offensive attack with a mixture of running and passing. Felton played in five games last season, connecting on eight of 23 passes for 170 yards and no TDs. He hasn't got a lot of experience, so he'll have to learn on the job during the early part of the game.

Delaware State will stress the wing T formation on offense. The Hornets will need more scoring punch in the second half of their ballgames this season. They only scored a clip of eight points a game in the second half of their games in 1987. And they won't have that experienced defensive unit to count on to hold the score down this year.

If Felton can deliver the ball on call from the wing T set, he will be able to use the services of speedster Tim Egerton, 5'11", 165, 4.4 in the 40. Egerton came on strong in '87 with 21 catches for 384 yards, while also serving as a punt returner (tops in the MEAC with 346 yards, an 18.3 yard average). Egerton is one of the keys the Hornets will use in their offensive scheme.

When Delaware State sets up in the wing T, they'll put Mike Riddick in the backfield. Riddick, at 6'4", 215, is an outstanding pass catcher and blocker. He will operate from the halfback slot and most of the time, probably adding motion to the Hornets' offense, with 4.4 speed. He and Egerton could cause a lot of problems.

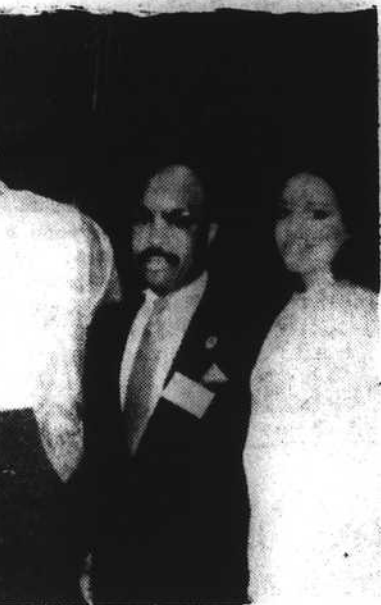
Also, toss in Reggie Barnes with his 4.5 speed at fullback to complement Riddick and Egerton's speed. Lining up at the other back spot, the Hornets will flip-flop John Barber and freshman Wendell Watson from the left halfback position. Watson will get the chance to work himself into the Hornets' attack as the season progresses.

The Hornets will be looking to make the quick sting on offense with their barn-burners.

Along the line, the Hornets will welcome back a trio of veterans, 6'3", 270 senior Justin Proctor at outside tackle, 6'1", 260 senior Cordie Greenlea at center, and 6'2", 265 senior Lee Johnson at the other outside tackle position. The nucleus is there, that they are together for another year will make afterwards at Alumni Stadium even more fun than in the past, says the Delaware State press guide. Freshman Roderick Milstead is being given a shot at one guard spot along with Charles Loney.

The Hornets will start the '88 season somewhat young and inexperienced at a few positions on offense and defense, but they will quickly get baptized under fire when they host Ken Riley's Gators of FAMU on Sept. 3. Improving on last year's 7-3 record and 4-1 MEAC mark will be a tough task for Collick and the Hornets. This will be a real strong test for Collick and his troops. The key question is whether or not Delaware State can continue their winning ways after losing so many quality people in '88.

"We have some talent," says Collick. "We have some young people who aren't great people when they arrive, but they get in the weight room and work toward it." If Delaware State is going to win the MEAC crown in '88, they'll have to work toward it. Next: A look at N.C. A&T's new head coach. Hayes turns in his Ram red for Aggie blue and gold.



ISIAH THOMAS TEAMING UP—Isiah Thomas and The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Michigan team up to promote the "All-Star Refresher," including newspaper advertisements.

## Indy Car Champs Head For Quaker State 500

The Indy Car PPG point standings for the 1988 CART season are among the most competitive in the organization's 10-year history. With several drivers competing for the championship, the Pocono Raceway oval in Long Pond, Pa., will be the next battleground as NBC's "SportsWorld" presents coverage (same-day tape) of the Quaker State 500 Sunday, Aug. 21.

Charlie Jones will anchor NBC's race coverage, with commentary from Indy Car driver Johnny Rutherford. Gary Gerould and Sally Larvick will report from the pit areas.

The Quaker State race will complete two-thirds of the CART racing series for 1988. The defending champion is Rick Mears, who ended a two-year victory drought when he took the checkered flag last August. In turning back the challenge of Geoff Brabham and Roberto Guerrero, Mears squeezed every ounce of fuel he had, finally running out of gas on his second cool-down lap after being declared the winner. Mears has won at Pocono three of the six times he has entered. He has sat on the pole in each of this season's two previous 500-mile races, Indianapolis and Michigan.

Mears this year won the Indianapolis 500 and won at Milwaukee a week later. Danny Sullivan is cur-

dashi, the fastest time recorded in the world this year. The USA's Calvin Smith edged out Johnson for second place in the event. With all done and said, this race really wasn't near anything compared to next month's dash for the gold in Seoul, South Korea.

The psychological mind games between Lewis and Johnson will carry on for about another month. Then it will be time for both men to put it all on the line, when the dash for the gold begins. Lewis and Johnson were paid a reported \$250,000 for their pre-Olympic feats.

## Summer League Teams Compete In Semifinals

On Thursday, the Chavis summer league basketball games were played at St. Augustine's College. In the semifinals, with four teams participating, A-Team downed WATCO 68-57. In the other semifinal, last year's champion the Blue Devils were upset by the Method Killers, 53-49.

The championship game was scheduled to take place Friday between A-Team and the Method Killers.