

Howard Hires Lawyer College Holds Own Tune

BY BARRY COOPER

Howard University, perhaps the most prestigious of all the historically black colleges, always has marched to its own tune, so it is no surprise that the Bison have gone far beyond the mainstream to find a new athletic director. And now that the Bison have their man, 41-year-old attorney Darrell Simmons, look for them to further distance themselves from other black colleges by scheduling sporting events against the Naval Academy and other predominantly white schools, and possibly even withdrawing from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

The hiring of Simmons seemed odd because he has no real experience in sports, either as a player, manager or coach. But he's a Howard grad, a Georgetown Law School graduate and a darn good attorney. Those credentials were good enough for Howard, which clearly wanted an athletic director who would bring new ideas and a fresh way of thinking to the post.

What Howard wants, it appears, is to virtually back away from being identified as a black college athletic program. Simmons and Steve Favors, Howard's vice president for student affairs, said the school is ready to make a dramatic change in its athletic programs, even if it means alienating longtime boosters who want Howard to continue playing only black colleges.

"You look at a situation and see what makes sense," Simmons told the Washington Post when asked would he favor, say, dropping a football game with historically black Virginia State to play, say, Navy. "You look at the historically black colleges on the schedule and you must weigh that against possibly playing at the Meadowlands [near New York City] with the chance to get national exposure."

It is okay by me if Howard wants to think big. Dreams come cheap. But making those fantasies come true is another matter. Just ask historically black Tennessee State, which 10 years ago thought it was putting together the groundwork to become a black Notre Dame. It never came close to happening. None of the big, predominantly white schools would play the Blue Tigers. Tennessee State remains what it was then: a proud, historically black school that is a hell of a place to get an education. But becoming a black Notre Dame? That goal remains beyond the Blue Tigers' reach, if only because there are too many obstacles being placed in the

school's way. The same is true about Florida A&M. If there was a black college capable of breaking into the big time, it was Florida A&M, particularly when football coach Rudy Hubbard and athletic director Roosevelt Wilson were at the helm in the early 1980s. They had big plans, big ideas. But it proved to be an impossible mission. There were too many barriers. Too little money, too little success in scheduling games against the larger schools, too few superstar recruits and too much resistance from the alumni.

Soon, attorney Simmons will find all this out at Howard. The last thing the larger schools want is for a Grambling or a Bethune-Cookman or a Howard to really make it big and begin stealing all the great black athletes. That's not racism; that's business.

But Howard intends to break down the barriers. This year, in basketball, the Bison will play Louisville, Florida, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Toledo and Miami. But all those games are on the road. In football, Howard is hoping it can schedule games with Temple and Navy, but it's likely both those games will be played on the road, too.

It's understandable that some longtime Howard observers are skeptical. Said alumnus Glen Harris, now a prominent broadcaster in D.C.: "Isn't this what we have been hearing from the Howard athletic department for the last 20 years?"

The Bison are confident that attorney Simmons will make a difference. Said Favors, the Howard vice president: "We don't have any doubts about what we are attempting to do."

Alabama State has become one of the first black colleges to support MVP Products, Inc., the world's only black-owned athletic shoe company. The shoes are on sale at a number of campus bookstores, including Alabama State's. But don't look for MVP to gobble up the shoe business from all the black college athletic teams. Most schools receive free sneakers from the largest shoe companies, and that makes it tougher for a small company like MVP Products to get an, uh, shoe in the door.

Norfolk State sports publicist John Holley has received some much-deserved recognition. He is the 1991 winner of the Cal Jacox/Champ Clark Award, which is presented annually to the top sports information director at a historically black college.



It's All In The Stars

MURIAL AND JERTHA LOVE

Week of Aug. 28-Sept. 4

Well, Virgo, this is your time of the year to step out and take charge of all those ideas that you have had bottled up. Since your planet Mercury has gone direct, you can see clearly through a glass darkly. Remember, as you open up the reality of the wisdom that is stored up inside of you, perhaps you will feel somewhat more comfortable with who you are. With Mercury re-entering Virgo, your mind is sharp and for sure you have some blessings coming with Jupiter following behind. So take life as you wish it and let the love flow into you.

ARIES

March 21-April 19

Perhaps you are not over the hump yet. However, as you put on a happy smile you will attract to you your greater good. Take a look at what happens over the holiday and proceed with caution.

TAURUS

April 20-May 20

For sure you Taurians are feeling great, with the sun now in Virgo this is one of your favorite times of the year when blessings are for sure going to open up to you.

GEMINI

May 21-June 21

Take a look around you and see where Mercury left you and in what state of the mind are you. For sure this is a busy time for you. Getting back on track isn't all that bad.

CANCER

June 22-July 22

Yes, your family life is more important to you and for sure that is where your mind is. However, when you just let things flow to you things will be better than you expected. You know what to do in those situations that may attempt to take you off center. Smile...

LEO

July 23-Aug. 22

Heh, Leo, take it easy for sure this is a time for you to grab at opportunities. However, take it easy and let things come to you. Watch before you leap even though things will turn out all right for you. Recheck moves before final decisions are made.

VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Happy natal day to all of you wonderful Virgoians. For sure your light is lit up and shining bright. Surprise is in store for you and why not? You deserve it. Good year ahead.

LIBRA

Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Always on your mind and why not? This is going to be a better time of the year for you than you thought. However, please, please think of others before you make that final move. You have all the information you need, so proceed with caution.

SCORPIO

Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Your energy should be well charged up and for sure as you let the truth stand revealed without criticizing others you will reap the rewards. Remember, when you point the finger at others you have three pointing back at you. You're in charge; let God handle it. You're a lot more stable than you think.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sometimes a little relaxation with the family isn't all that bad. You need a break from the routine. However, when obstacles creep up take a little detour. Remember your obligations and things will run smoothly. Remember, you never get away with anything.

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Happy days are here again and for sure you Capricorn should be feeling a lot better with the sun in Virgo. This is your season and the opportunities should begin to flow to you much better than you expect. Your influence is greatly appreciated.

AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Goals... goals. Why not? This is one time that you can count on those goals coming to fruition. That is, should you have kept a positive attitude. You do have the ability to foresee the future when you follow your inner guidance. Take time and let your hunches pay off. Stick to your game plan.

PISCES

Feb. 19-March 20

This is the last big fling of the season for you with this holiday here now. However, you have been thinking about some changes and for sure this will play an important role in your life at this time. Stick to the work routine for just a little longer and things will begin to see the light. You do have your foot in the door, so take advantage of it. Opportunity is here now. This is your balance time of the year.

To all you wonderful zodiacal light beings, take it easy on the highways and let the others go first. Watch what you drink and stay on your routine of a good diet. Have a last good holiday and keep those children healthy as they return to school by feeding them the right foods... no sugar and no sodas... get fresh fruits and vegetables as snacks and let their minds soar this year. Go for it. Remember, it's all in the stars... Listen in daily on WLLE-AM 570 on your radio dial, 10-11 a.m.

newsworthy trends

Automobile Leasing: Up In Popularity

Leasing, an alternative financing arrangement that lets a growing number of people drive new automobiles on a more frequent basis, is on the rise. It accounted for approximately 1.8 million retail car deliveries in the United States during 1990, compared to 1.1 million retail deliveries in 1988, reports the National Vehicle Leasing Association.

Automobile dealers around the country attribute this growth in leasing to lower lease rates and the good financial sense it represents.

Today, virtually every domestic and foreign car manufacturer offers some form of short-term leasing. Some go even further. In 1989, Audi of America launched a low-cost leasing program that many in the industry consider unprecedented. Aply, it's called the Three-year Test Drive. Because of its popularity, leasing now accounts for over 40 percent of that car manufacturer's deliveries.

How It Works

The Three-year Test Drive lease

program lets a person lease a 1991 Audi for 36 months, with no down payment, at rates more typical of four- and five-year leases.

Industry automobile leasing experts report there are now several short-term lease programs on the market, all of which give lessees the freedom to turn in their vehicles after three years. In terms of a total package, however, the Audi Three-year Test Drive has a number of advantages that provide a virtually risk free driving experience.

In addition to the low monthly rates and zero down payment requirements, the lease program covers all scheduled maintenance and service adjustments during the life of the three-year lease, up to 50,000 miles. This includes oil changes, routine engine adjustments and replacement of all normal wear items, such as windshield wiper blades and brake pads.

Many consider this type of risk-free ownership experience a significant reason more Americans are now leasing instead of buying.

THE ART OF FLIRTATION.



COGNAC. L'ART DE M. MARTELL.

OPENING DOORS TO HOME OWNERSHIP

NCNB's Community Investment Program makes it easier than ever to qualify for a home mortgage loan. The program offers special mortgages with no minimum loan amount, flexible guidelines to help you qualify—plus lower down payments. You can even make your mortgage payment directly from your Baseline Checking account. Talk with an NCNB banker today, or call 1-800-879-9779. When you're ready to buy a home, we're ready to open doors for you.

NCNB
Community Investment Program

NCNB National Bank of North Carolina.
Member FDIC.
© 1991 NCNB Corporation.
Equal Housing Lender.