

SPORTS

THE COACHES BOX

BY JAMES L. GILES, SR.



NORFOLK, Va.—Mike Bernard, first-year head coach for the Norfolk State men's basketball team, has been named the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Region's coach of the year. The annual award is sponsored by Kodak and the National Association of Basketball Coaches, which selects both regional and national coaches of the year.



BERNARD

By virtue of winning the award from the South Atlantic Region, Bernard is in the running for the national honor as well, along with the other regional choices and the four coaches reaching the final round of the NCAA Division II championships.

Bernard, who accepted the head coaching position at Norfolk State last April, surprised many critics this season by restoring the Spartans' once proud tradition and winning ways, all in the course of one short season.

In a season that included a familiar trip to the semifinals of the CIAA tournament and a post-season at-large bid to the NCAA Division II tournament, the Spartans finished the year with a 22-10 record, and a second-place finish in the CIAA Northern Division.

This is the first time that Bernard has been accorded the regional Coach-of-the-Year accolade. He was, however, the national Coach of the Year in 1989, after his North

Carolina Central University team won the national championship and finished 28-4.

"This award is an attestation to how hard my staff and I have worked to make this program a competitive, consistent winner again," Bernard said.

Bernard took over the Spartan program that had gone 15-13 a year ago and had no starters returning for his inaugural season. In addition, Bernard inherited a team with no proven leadership, and his late start hurt him in recruiting; and, ultimately, he was forced to scour the nation, scrambling for athletes who could step in and contribute immediately.

His first season termed as a building one, Bernard tried all sorts of lineups, nine in all, and started 12 of his 16 athletes at least once over the course of the season.

The team also faced a lot of adversity throughout the season with their third head coach in as many years, and the loss of Ron Green and Michael Bailey for personal reasons and Kevin Jones, Morris Jones and Marcus Whitfield, all of whom suffered season-ending injuries.

That's not mentioning the fact that Bernard could only count on three of his players to play in all 32 games due to nagging injuries suffered by three other athletes that were forced to sit out a few games, as well as three other athletes who missed games for personal reasons.

The national Kodak coaches of the year for each NCAA division will be selected by NABC during its convention at the NCAA final four tournament in Minneapolis, Minn.

Sondra Cockfield Selected Women's Player Of The Year By MEAC Voters

GREENSBORO—Sondra Cockfield of the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore was voted Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Women's Player of the Year and heads the 1991-92 All-Conference team. Her coach, Willie Simon was tabbed MEAC Women's Coach of the Year. Voters included the MEAC head coaches and sports information directors.

Cockfield, a 5'6" senior guard from Lake City, S.C., led the MEAC in steals with 3.5 per game and ranked fourth in scoring with a 15-point average, and fourth in assists with four per contest. She also averaged 4.8 rebounds and hit 38 three-

pointers in leading her team to a possible tie for the league crown and no less than second place this season. Cockfield was named on seven of the 16 ballots for top player honors. Amanda Jones of Bethune-Cookman College was next in line with four votes, while South Carolina State College's Wanda Wiggins drew three. The other two votes went to Angie Fowler of UMES and Faye McCallum of Coppin State College.

Wiggins joined Cockfield in the All-MEAC first team backcourt. Jones and Fowler were members of the frontcourt along with Delaware State College's Shervon Hunter. Wiggins, a 5'8" sophomore from

Bamberg, S.C., averaged 14.5 points, 4.3 rebounds, and three steals per contest.

Jones, a 6'1" senior center from Brunswick, Ga., led the MEAC in both scoring (20.2 points per game) and rebounding (12.1 per game). Jones ranks sixth among the nation's NCAA Division I rebounders and 36th in scoring.

Fowler, a 5'7" senior forward from Florence, S.C., averaged 13 points and 4.5 rebounds. Hunter, a 5'10" senior center from San Francisco, averaged 16.2 points and 8.2 rebounds.

South Carolina State 6'0" junior forward Tabitha Barber, who

missed the first team by a single vote, heads the Women's All-MEAC Second Team. She is joined in the frontcourt by Howard's 6'0" sophomore forward Annette Lee and Coppin State 5'10" senior forward Faye McCallum.

LaShawn Scott, a 5'5" junior guard of Coppin and N.C. A&T State University's 5'8" junior guard Robin Williams make the backcourt. Lee averaged 15 points and 8.3 rebounds on the year. McCallum averaged 10 points and was second in MEAC rebounding with 9.4 per game. Scott added 10.6 points, 6.1 assists, and 2.6 steals per contest to Coppin's attack. Williams averaged 13.3 points and 5.6 rebounds.

MEAC Names Collier As Annual Rookie Player

GREENSBORO—Monique Collier, a 5'8" forward of Delaware State College, was voted 1991-92 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Rookie of the year and headlined the women's All-Rookie Team as voted by the league head coaches.

Collier averaged 11 points, 5.7 rebounds and two steals per game. She was joined on the first team by South Carolina State's Renee Walker, a 5'8" guard; Howard's 5'8" sophomore guard Dorothy Hunter-Williams, Coppin State's 6'2" center Renee Doctor, and N.C. A&T State University's 5'8" guard Hope Monroe.

Walker, from Bamberg, S.C., averaged six points and three rebounds. Hunter-Williams, from Pompano Beach, Fla., averaged 10.8 points, 5.4 rebounds, and 2.5 assists. Doctor, from Tampa, averaged 4.2 points. Monroe, from Laurinburg, averaged five points per game and had 22 assists and 19 steals.

The 1991-92 MEAC Women's All-Rookie Second Team was comprised of Morgan State forward Chanel Johnson, Coppin forward Monica Benson, and Bethune-Cookman's Francia Near, a guard, and Candace Freeman, a center.

Jesse Owens' Name Tag

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP)—The board of directors of the Gateway downtown sports complex is considering naming the facility after track star Jesse Owens.

Owens grew up in Cleveland and went to East Technical High school, then attended Ohio State University. Dave Williams of Cleveland recently asked the Gateway Board of Trustees to name the complex after Owens.

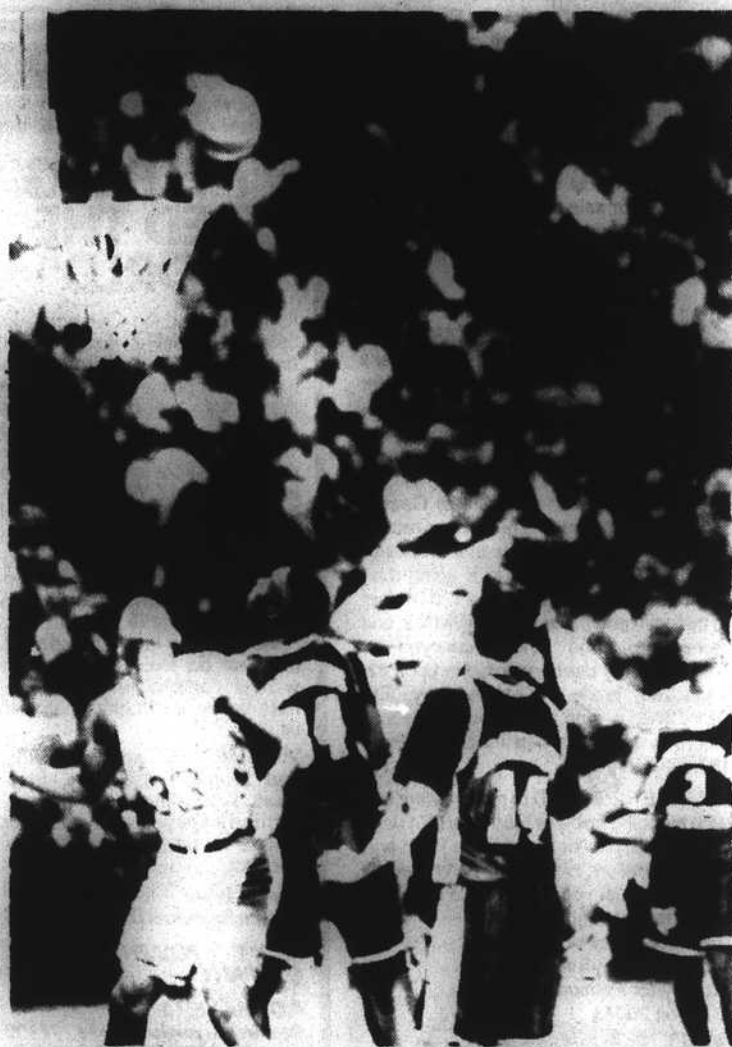
Owens earned his greatest fame at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, where he won four gold medals. Gateway officials plan to sell naming rights to the project, which includes a baseball stadium, a bas-

ketball arena and a public plaza between the two buildings.

The Gateway board hopes to raise about \$20 million from the naming rights, then use the money to help repay the \$75 million in industrial revenue bonds.

"I can't imagine anybody not wanting to honor Jesse Owens. I guess the question really is when you get down to naming rights discussion, how do you package his name with a sponsor's name and logo," said the Rev. Marvin McMickle, a member of the board.

Board Chairman James Biggar said the board would like to name the facility after Owens, but must meet its financial goals.



STEPPING UP—Grant Hill, No. 33 played a key role as Duke defeated Michigan 71-51 Monday night to win their second straight NCAA title. Hill was named Player of the Game after scoring 18-points with 5 assists and 10 rebounds. Duke became the first college basketball team to win consecutive national titles since UCLA in 1973. (Photo by James Giles)

Atlanta Planner Says Areas Have Third World Look

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)—Armed with a new study, the city's planning director says six Atlanta neighborhoods that in places resemble Third World countries need radical help before the 1996 Summer Olympics. "All you have to do is drive through the city and you can see areas that resemble Third World nations," said Leon Eplan, Atlanta's planning and development commissioner.

"We just have not gotten the public commitment to do something about it," he added.

But the Olympic Games give the city a special reason to launch a major redevelopment in six neighborhoods that will be near proposed Olympic sites, he said.

A new study suggests redirecting \$16 million that is now spread across the city to those neighborhoods for intensive help.

The study, prepared by the non-profit Community Design Center of Atlanta and funded through a \$35,000 federal grant, amounted to a comprehensive look at life in the six in-town neighborhoods.

Among the findings: hunger, inadequate medical care, high unemployment, no care for the elderly, pervasive drugs and housing that is either too expensive or substan-

dard. Those problems are in many other neighborhoods as well, Eplan said, but "We can't deal with all the neighborhoods at one time. The Olympics gives us a focus and target."

"When we spread it out in a huge area, we diminish the impact of the money and we don't see the result, so it's necessary to target it," he said. "So why don't we aim and see what we can do?"

The study suggests community spirit could be rekindled by having community leaders make many of the decisions on improved services to their neighborhoods.

All neighborhoods would work under an umbrella non-profit organization that would disband after two years.

The study was researched over 18 months by the CDCA, a non-profit organization that provides design plans for low-income neighborhoods. It is still in draft form, but copies have circulated among community leaders.

Eplan termed the study a blueprint for radical, community-based change in the neighborhoods of Vine City/Egan Homes, Atlanta University, English Avenue, Summerhill, Mechanicsville and Peopletown.

NCSU Coach To Tee Off In Classic Golf Game

N.C. State women's basketball coach Kay Yow has accepted an invitation to serve as honorary chairperson for the March of Dimes' seventh annual Celebrity Golf Classic. This year's classic will be held June 14-16 at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary.

On Sunday, June 14, golfers will kick things off in style with a Tex-Mex dinner dance and auction featuring trips, autographed celebrity memorabilia, golf outings and other items. Then, on Monday, June 15, the classic will begin with a golf clinic by local pro Vance Heafner followed by a full day of golf at the country club.

Other celebrities already committed to play include Baseball Hall of Famer Enos Slaughter, local artist Jerry Miller, Raleigh Bullfrogs head coach Monte Towe, Raleigh IceCaps head coach Kurt Kliendorst, WTVD sportscaster Drew Smith, Harlem Globetrotter Twigg Sanders and the Buffalo Bills' Jim Ritcher.

The official sponsor for the classic is SAS Institute, Inc., and tee sponsors include American Airlines, Bob Barker Co., Mitchell Funeral Home, Raychem Corp., Spectator Magazine, Scotland Container Corp., and

Southern States Nissan. For further information on the Celebrity Golf Classic, contact Renee Harris at the March of Dimes office 781-2481.

Biltmore Hills To Host Tennis Workshop Here

The U.S. Professional Tennis Registry will host a Minority Tennis Teacher Workshop at Biltmore Hills Park on Saturday and Sunday.

The USPTR was recently named as the recipient of grants from the American Tennis Industry Federation to provide free tennis instruction to minorities at the grassroots level. According to USPTR President Dennis Van der Meer, "This program will have a tremendous effect on the number of black people who will begin to play tennis. The USPTR is committed to providing education for black tennis teachers throughout the world."

The 10-hour workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 8-10 a.m. on Sunday with USPTR testing to follow.

CIAA Spring Sports

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Spring Sports Championships will be hosted by St. Augustine's College April 16-18. The championships include baseball, basketball, golf, track and field, softball, volleyball, tennis, wrestling, soccer and fencing. Teams from all the CIAA schools will be represented.

This is the first time that the

CIAA Spring Sports Championships has been held in the Triangle area and the first time it has been hosted by St. Augustine's. This event will place St. Augustine's track star Antonio Pettigrew, 400-meter champion, on the field with all the CIAA schools and give the Lady Falcons basketball team a rematch with the CIAA women's champions, Norfolk State.

Should Sports Fans Be Offended By Ethnic Nicknames?

BY BARRY COOPER

Random thoughts on three fronts: Should we be offended by ethnic nicknames such as the Redskins, the Braves, or the Fighting Irish?

At least one radio station thinks so.

WTOP, an AM station in Washington, D.C., says it and sister station WASH-FM no longer will refer to Washington's NFL team as the Redskins. Atlanta's baseball team as the Braves or the University of Notre Dame as the Fighting Irish.

This is all very interesting. WTOP took the attention-grabbing stance

shortly after the D.C. City Council recommended the Redskins name be dropped.

It's funny that with all the problems we have today, the D.C. City Council would choose to spend time on the football team's nickname.

I mean, this is the same city council that not long ago voted against making it easier to have people arrested for spouse abuse.

It seems the city council was concerned that the new law would result in yet another flood of black men being arrested, seeing how most of D.C. is black (we can only

guess that the D.C. City Council figured it would be better to have more women abused than men arrested, but that's an argument for another day).

But back to WTOP. The station has thrust its chest out, promising not to mention the word Redskins—except in one instance: The ban won't apply to commercials.

Oh.

It seems to me that if boxer Mike Tyson wants to return to the ring as quickly as possible, he should forget about any meaningless appeal that

could drag on for a year or two. Iron Mike needs to send a message to the judge. He ought to print on a sheet of paper: I NEED HELP.

Maybe then, Tyson and his promoter will realize the big break they have been hoping for. Chances are, Tyson, by admitting he has a problem, could be in and out of prison in three years or less. That would give him plenty of time to reclaim his stature as the toughest heavyweight boxer ever.

Tyson's conviction on a rape charge only adds to his legend. True,

it's a pretty sorry addition, but the evidence is clear: Tyson was indeed guilty of rape.

When the verdict in his case was announced, black America reacted as if often does when one of its stars is about to be taken away. There was anger and there was dismay. But now some time has passed and there is a sense of reason.

There is too much black-on-black crime. It's in every black neighborhood. By forcing himself on an 18-year-old black beauty contestant, Tyson added to the crime that

plagues our cities.

For that, Tyson should be punished. Then, with his debt to society paid, we can all feel good about welcoming him back with open arms, and cheering, again, for the toughest heavyweight around.

Magic Johnson keeps teasing us with the idea of a comeback next season. He would play in 60 of the Lakers' 82 games, he says. Good idea? Foolish? Only Magic and his doctors can say for sure. But then, it's his life.



ON PRESS ROW — At the CIAA, the ACC and high school basketball tournament action, your CAROLINIAN sports columnist was there to give you information through pictures and stories. We hope we were a part of your basketball experience.