

Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D.

Is an education necessary? Can a series of sports courses figure in the GPA (Grade Point Average) of athletes? Can a university win games with the use of athletes not fully qualified to play because of their academic standards?

The answer to all of the above questions is obviously yes. However, the practice of using only academically qualified athletes was obviously not followed by our local university's football coach during the past season. He allowed ineligible players to suit out and play, and won a tremendous number of games against teams who had followed the rule, even against Mid-American Conference champion Toledo,

and had to forfeit all games.

At some place, the buck must stop. University presidents blame the problems on the athletic directors; the athletic directors blame them on the coaches; the coaches blame the problems on the recruiters and the players themselves.

To get an education should certainly be the most important activity of one who attends college. This also holds true in high school. Counselors should work with the coaches to assure that all athletes take courses that will either prepare them for college if it is their aim to go to college to engage

to get an education should — nay, *must* be the most important activity of one who attends college. This also holds true in high school. Counselors should work with the coaches to assure that all athletes take courses that will either prepare them for college if it is their aim to go to college to engage

in sports, or to prepare them for the workaday world.

Many of the athletes think in terms of getting into the major leagues and making big money. However, only about 15% of the athletes ever make it to the majors, with the other 85% finding themselves out in the cold. The success figures may even be lower than this.

Every student, whether that student is an athlete or not, deserves the very best education he/she can get. However, the athletes deserve even more. They deserve our gratitude for their skills, their sportsmanlike conduct, and their loyalty to their coaches, their teams, and to their college or university.

On the other hand, these same athletes deserve the opportunity to get the best possible education.

Many of our athletes are Black, therefore, we as Blacks owe them all of the support we can muster, especially when not more than 15% of these athletes make it to the major leagues. We in education owe it

Throughout the South, it was generally illegal to educate slaves. But despite stringent regulations, many Blacks defied these laws by founding private schools in which to teach the slaves.

Daniel Payne was one such man. He was born a free Black in Charleston, South Carolina in 1811. He was a bishop of the AME church and when he was elected president of Wilberforce University, he was the first Black to receive that distinction.

Among his many accomplishments, Payne, at the age of 18, started a school. The school remained open for six years until the authorities forced him to close it. In the following excerpt from his autobiography, Payne explains his motivation for his self-education and the education of others.

Part IV of Four Parts
My enthusiasm was

to them to provide the very best educational opportunities available. Then, and only then, will their education become power.

OUR GIANTS SPEAK

Daniel A. Payne
1811-1893

the inspiration of my pupils. I used to take my first class of boys into the woods every Saturday in search of insects, reptiles, and plants, and at the end of five years I had accumulated some fine specimens of each of these. I had also taken a fatherless boy to educate gratuitously

In the prosecution of my studies in zoology I desired to obtain a highland moccasin, which was then considered a species of rattlesnake, and whose bite was deadly. Therefore, I engaged the services of a slave of lawyer Lionel Kennedy, who as at that time an alderman of the city of Charleston. The plantation of this gentleman was about one mile distant from the city. On the appointed Saturday I dispatched three of my advanced class (John Lee, Robert Wishan, and

Michael Eggart) with a large glass bottle, in order that they might bring me the viper alive. On their arrival at the plantation they found lawyer Kennedy and his son, Dr. Kennedy, overlooking the work of the slaves. They knew me and knew the boys' parents. Calling the lads to them, they demanded the reason of their appearance on the plantation. A direct answer was given. Then they asked the lads to tell them what were the different things taught them, and they also examined them in their studies. The boys answered every question put to them except one. Then said the young doctor: "Why, pa, Payne is playing hell in Charleston."

From *Recollections of Seventy Years*, by Daniel A. Payne, 1888.

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Elementary Schools To Host NASA Program

NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, will provide a special program for students through its Aerospace Education Services Project.

Walter Long Elementary School will host the NASA program on Mar. 27; McWilliams Elementary School on Mar. 26. All students at these two schools will participate in lecture/demonstration assemblies on the principles of rocketry, aeronautics, communications, remote sensing and astronomy.

Jr. High Choral Festival on Mar. 23

The Clark County School District will hold a Junior High School Choral Festival at Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, on Mar. 23, from 10 a.m.

Sunset High School Registration March 22

Southern Nevadans under 21 who want to complete their high school education at night may register for classes at Sunset High School, on Mar. 22, at the Las Vegas High School cafeteria located at 8th and Bridger Streets.

Registration for seniors will be at 3:30 p.m., for juniors at 4 p.m. and for sophomores at 5:30 p.m.

Students under 16 years of age and registering at Sunset for the first time must bring a parent to registration, must demonstrate proof of immunization, and must bring a copy of his/her transcript.

to 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend the free program.

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