

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

March 10, 1988



SPORTLIGHT

By R.L. Greene

NEW YORK — When a National Football League team gets around to naming a Black as head coach, don't believe all that stuff you'll read about him being the first.

It is somewhat ironic that the NFL is under fire now because of its lack of Blacks on top since pro football actually led the way. Yet, it is only appropriate that Pete Rozelle & Co. take all the flack that has been heading their way.

Five Blacks have been prominently mentioned as future head coaches in the NFL. Everyone says Tony Dungy, the defensive coordinator of the Pittsburgh Steelers, is definitely head coach material. His problem, however, is age. He's only 32.

Perhaps the leader of the Group of Five and the first one to be named head coach is Dennis Green, now the receivers coach of the San Francisco 49ers. Green is 38, was a star tailback at Iowa and played with the

British Lions in the Canadian Football League in 1972.

The other Black candidates are Willie Brown, 47, secondary coach of the Los Angeles Raiders; Johnny Roland, 45, offensive backs coach of the Chicago Bears; and Art Shell, 41, assistant offensive line coach of the Raiders.

But Dennis Green has something none of the others have: head coaching experience. He spent five years as head coach at Northwestern and in 1982 was named Big Ten Coach of the Year. He was head coach in the 1984 Hula Bowl, where his team established a game-record 336 yards passing.

That's the kind of resume the NFL is looking for.

Green has paid his dues. He was a graduate assistant at Iowa in 1972, offensive backs and receivers coach at Dayton in 1973, quarterbacks and receivers coach at Iowa from 1974-76, receivers coach at Stanford in 1977-78 under Bill Walsh, now head coach of the 49ers.

He joined Walsh at San

Francisco in 1979, then spent one season as Stanford's offensive coordinator in 1980 before going to Northwestern. For the last two years, he has been reunited with Walsh at San Francisco.

"I think the NFL is long overdue in hiring blacks as assistant coaches, more of them, given the ratio of blacks that make up the team on the playing field," Allan Page, a former defensive star of the Minnesota Vikings and now an assistant attorney general in Minnesota specializing in employment and labor, recently said.

"I think there ought to be more blacks and other minorities and women, for that matter, in front-office positions. As for head coaches, I think it's time for the NFL to be heading for the 21st century.

"I think the National Football League owes not just to those individuals who have played professional football, but to the millions of minority kids out there who strive to be athletes.

"I think they (the NFL) have an obligation to let those kids know that there is a place for them beyond the football field, whether it be in coaching or whatever position is available in the front office, and, to be frank, whether it be in ownership positions. It is time that that comes about."

If Green or any other Black is named head coach of an NFL team, he would be only the second, not the first.

After starring at Brown University as a quarterback and leading the Bruins to the first official Rose Bowl on Jan. 1, 1916, Fritz Pollard was the first Black to be named by Walter Camp to his All-America team. Camp later included Pollard in his dream backfield along with Jim Thorpe, Red Grange and Bronko Nagurski.

Pollard, who died in 1986 at the age of 92, claimed he coached the Akron Pros in 1919 and 1920, installing Brown University's high-powered offense. One of his fellow players with Akron was Paul Robeson, a stand-

RACE AND SPORTS BOOK ANNIVERSARY TO BE CELEBRATED

The Showboat's Race and Sports Book will celebrate its Sixth Anniversary on Thursday, March 17, 1988. Charlotte Riek, the director of the Race and Sports Book, invites the public to attend. "Patrons will be treated to birthday cake and green beer," according to Riek. The party begins at one o'clock in the afternoon on Saint Patrick's Day. There will also be other festivities in the hotel, throughout the day, as part of "Mr Kelley's Saint Patrick's Day Celebration."

Riek, who has been with the book since it opened, said the fact that 12 television monitors had to be added in the first six years shows tremendous growth. "We had only four (TV) monitors when we started . . . all were used for sporting events," said Riek. "With all of the race tracks doing live simulcasts, we've had to expand." The Showboat now televises all major tracks and is currently showing Meadowlands and Garden State Park night racing.

The race and Sports Book has the Kentucky Derby futures betting line posted, as well as the 1988 Major League Baseball Pennant and 1989 Super Bowl odds.

Riek is also proud of the Showboat's Football Handicapping Contest, which was initiated four years ago.

out football player at Rutgers who later would become known as a singer and actor. In 1920, Akron posted a 13-0 record without giving up a single point.

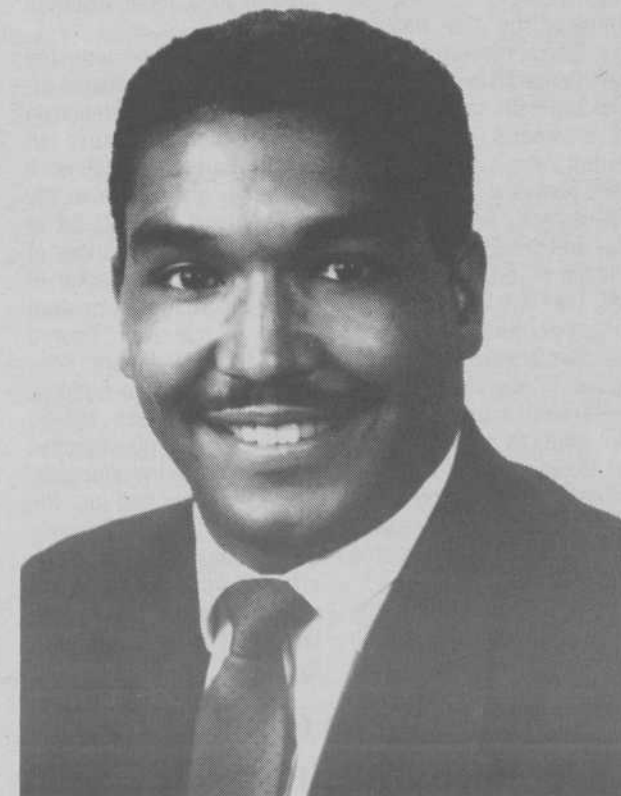
The NFL says it didn't come into existence until 1922, negating Pollard's earlier effort. But in 1923 Pollard was hired as player-coach of the Hammond, Ind., Pros, where he compiled a 4-10-2 record in three seasons.

It's time someone follows in Pollard's footsteps.

REBELS WITH A CAUSE PRE-EMPT CBS TELEVISION NETWORK

KLAS-TV, Channel 8 will pre-empt network programming on Wednesday, March 16 to broadcast "Rebels with a Cause," a one hour special on the UNLV Runnin' Rebel basketball team.

ups and downs. In addition, the show will include the newest video version of "Walk Like a Tarkanian." The song, recorded by the local band 911, along with the video edited by KLAS-TV,



Art Edwards

"Rebels with a Cause" will include the highlights, milestones, and records of the entire 1987-88 season, as well as a preview of the upcoming NCAA Playoffs, and a look at the prospects for next year. It will also feature a behind the scenes look at the coaching staff that has led the Rebels to another successful season, and the fans who have backed the team during its

has gained national attention.

"Rebels with a Cause" is produced by the Channel 8 sports department, and hosted by KLAS Sports Director and anchor Art Edwards. Edwards was recently honored by the Associated Press for Best Sportscast of the year in California and Nevada.

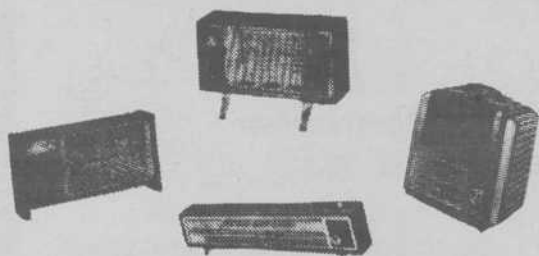
"Rebels with a Cause" can be seen on Channel 8 Wednesday, March 16 at 8:00 p.m.



HEATERS

ARVIN - MARKEL - TITAN - SUPERELECTRIC

At Phil's you will find the largest selection in Las Vegas of Automatic 110-220 Volt Wall and Portable Heaters, plus, Gas Furnaces, Kerosene, Oil and Diesel Fuel Heaters.



PHIL'S SALVAGE, INC.
BUILDER'S EMPORIUM
1131 So. Main Street
382-7528 382-5004

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

GIVE YOUR LUNGS A SPRING CLEANING
Attend the American Cancer Society's
Free Quit Smoking Program

"Fresh Start"

March 21st-24th, Noon-1:00 or 5:30-6:30 p.m.
held at The Ross & Coletta Miller
Cancer Education Center
1325 E. Harman

Call for information and registration — 798-6877