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HILTON



KEITH O. HILTON

First Class Basketball Coaches

When I first drafted this column, I was jokingly tempted to call it "Fifty-one doesn't equal a full deck" because as of this season, there are now 51 Black head coaches in Division I basketball.

This select group, many coaching at HBI's, is compiling impressive credentials that show the scope of skills and abilities that African professionals possess when given chances.

Coach John Thompson of Georgetown University is the most widely known. He led the Hoyas to the 1983-84 championship and has made the school perennial winners in the Big East.

Most recently, Big John led the U.S. basketball team to victory in the Olympics (bronze medal).

But Big John has been both praised and criticized by the sports media. Yet, in 18 years at Georgetown, very few of his players have failed to graduate. How many oth-

er colleges can make that statement?

His players have been called gangsters and undisciplined, yet when white ball players get physical, they are praised for going all out. How many times have we heard Packer, McGuire or Musburger (just to mention a few) talk about this player or that player having spunk, spirit and savvy?

One could almost hear a collective sigh around America when the Georgetown monster didn't repeat as national champions the next year, a feat that hasn't been done since UCLA and John Wooden. Whenever Mr. Thompson loses, he becomes a great guy again.

Speaking of UCLA, it was probably the first predominantly white major Division I school to hire back-to-back African coaches. Larry Farmer was first and then Walt Hazzard.

Of the seven colleges that I have directly been a part of

(either as a student or professional), only two schools did not have at least one Black assistant coach. One school at the time didn't have a basketball team and the other had an "unofficial" assistant coach who by profession served as a full-time history professor.

This pattern of having at least one Black assistant coach is consistent across the country. With so many coaching positions, it would seem sort of natural that as openings occurred, these assistants would be considered.

It is so positive to see that a group of proactive and progressive Black assistant coaches have now formed an organization that as designed should place them in real positions to be considered when head coaching positions become open.

The Black Coaches Association is just what the doctor ordered. This group has also stated that it is committed to academic support for athletes.

Hiring more Black coaches is not the panacea to academic excellence; however, there appears to be a direct positive bond shared by them and Black athletes.

AS AN ASIDE, think back to that Georgetown championship season. Was I the only person to notice that of the starting centers on the final four teams, three were Black and from other countries? Jamaica, Nigeria and Haiti were well represented, wouldn't you say? My biggest hope is that a new era of Black international exploitation isn't beginning. This should be the third charge of BCA and the 51 African head coaches.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed for college and world readers. Education is ongoing and not limited to school classrooms. Keep a file of these columns and use them as a supplemental reference source. Let's talk.

ALUMNI GROUP OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Westside School Alumni Association is now taking applications for scholarships to attend trade, technical, or four-year college schools for needy, and qualified individuals. Scholarships are available to individuals who are high school seniors, or presently attending a trade school or college.

The Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization that is open to membership to anyone who taught at, or attended the Old Westside School, located at 330 W. Washington Avenue, between the years 1922 and 1969. The Association has more than 1,000 members, who reside throughout the United States and abroad. The group meets on the first Saturday of every month at Westside School's Community Room, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

For more scholarship information, or to request an application, call Mr. H. P. Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, at 648-0039, or Dr. Betty Scott Henderson, President of the Alumni Association, at 649-7070 evenings.

STUDENTS PLEDGE TO LEAD SMOKE FREE LIFE

Students in the first through fifth grades at Clyde C. Cox Elementary School have signed their name to a huge banner proclaiming their intentions to lead a smoke free life, in honor of the Great American Smoke-out celebrated nationwide Thursday, November 17.

The banner, touting more than 500 signatures, was unfurled during the school's flag ceremony at 8:50 a.m. on Thursday, November 17.

The school is located at 3855 Timberlake Drive.

"DRIVE SOBER—DRIVE SMART!" MADD/National Car Rental Announce Nationwide Poster/Essay Contest

Local Student Entries Requested

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and National Car Rental System, Inc. are announcing a call-for-entries for the third annual nationwide Poster/Essay Contest open to students in Grades 1-12. Using this year's theme, "Drive Sober—Drive Smart!" the Poster/Essay Contest gives students a forum for expressing their illustrative or writing skills while enhancing school and community awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Edward James Olmos is serving as spokesperson and is promoting the contest through a national awareness campaign. Olmos received critical acclaim in the movie, "Stand and Deliver" for his performance as a teacher who motivates his pupils to greater educational heights. He is also well-known for his Emmy award-winning role as Lt. Martin Castillo in television's "Miami Vice."

MADD and National Car Rental feel it is particularly important to target youth, since drunk and drugged driving is the leading cause of death among young people. Approximately 31 percent of the fatally injured teen drivers in 1986 were intoxicated. "We hope to reach more teenagers this year than ever before to reduce the disturbing loss of ten 15-19 year-olds each day in alcohol-related traffic crashes," says Norma Phillips, MADD National president.

National, the world's largest car rental network, is the first such company to support an anti-drunk driving campaign. "We are committed to sponsoring a program that makes our nation's highways safer for everyone. By reaching our country's youth we hope to increase safety now and in the future," says Vincent Wasik, chief executive office of National. This is the third consecutive year that National has sponsored the contest.

Olmos has worked with MADD for several years and is personally committed to their efforts. He recently said, "Drunk driving is a crime that hurts people of all ages. Fortunately, it is one that can be stopped in our

lifetime. We must challenge our young people to choose a lifestyle which does not include drinking and driving."

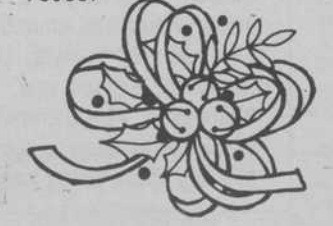
MADD's chapters, which number nearly 400, schools and other youth-oriented organizations are encouraged to conduct local contests and forward their first place winning entries to MADD's national office in Hurst, Texas for judging. For the first time, essays and posters will be accepted in English and Spanish in equal competition for first, second or third place. All entries must be postmarked by February 13, 1989.

The poster contest is open to four grade divisions: grades 1-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. First, second and third place winners are selected from each division.

The essay contest is open to three divisions: grades 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Again, the top three winners are chosen from each division.

Each of the seven first-place national winners will receive a check for \$1,000 to be presented at an awards ceremony in New York City on Tuesday, April 4, 1989. Second and third place winners will each receive a check for \$500 and \$250 respectively. Both the New York City trip and the cash awards are provided by National Car Rental.

Students wishing to enter the "Drive Sober — Drive Smart!" Poster/Essay Contest should contact their local MADD chapters for details. The local Clark County Chapter of MADD can be contacted by writing P.O. Box 12035, Las Vegas, NV 89112 or by calling 457-MADD. Individual entries are also welcomed. Where there is no local MADD chapter, students and teachers may request official contest rules for the MADD/National Car Rental Poster/Essay Contest from: MADD National Youth Program, 669 Airport Freeway, Suite 310, Hurst, TX 76053.



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