

### Playing the Television Game

With the number of black athletes in professional sports, it is surprising to many people that there aren't more black broadcasters in sports television. I have heard accusations of discrimination and racial bias on the part of the networks, charges that not enough blacks are getting a chance to succeed on television.

While I agree that there is a serious shortage of black broadcasters covering football and sports in general, I don't believe racial bias is the reason.

Let's face it, professional sports experience alone does not automatically qualify you for the broadcasting booth. To be in broadcasting, you have to have an extraordinary command of the English language, something too few professional athletes — black and white — have. This often is a result of educational backgrounds that emphasized athletics instead of communication and business skills.

I believe that the networks would like to hire more black athletes as sports commentators. Every year, auditions are held, and former sports stars are put through the routine by each network (all of which would love to find the next O.J. Simpson). Many athletes, however, have very serious, no-nonsense personalities, and in a field where a quick sense of humor means as much as sports knowledge, they often don't make the cut.

I know I wouldn't. Being in front of the TV camera is a tough assignment. I have a good command of the English language, but get me under the lights and put pressure on me, and I get tongue-tied.

I think Dan Jiggett on CBS and Tom Jackson on ESPN, two successful black National Football League (NFL) veterans on television, have shown that it takes that quick wit to make it these days. James Brown, who I think does a great job as a play-by-play man at CBS, never played in the NFL. He was a great basketball player and had several years experience in business before he came to television. The business experience, I'm sure, helped him learn the importance of being well-spoken.

Look at Greg Gumbel, the anchor for "The NFL Today." I don't think Gumbel ever played a sport in his life. But he and his brother Bryant, who started with sports on NBC and now hosts "Today" every weekday morning, obviously have placed emphasis on developing the art of speaking well. These two brothers have great on-air composure, confidence and eloquence.

Television is a money-making business that always is looking for the next big star. My best advice to any young athlete who envisions success in professional sports followed by a career in television is to prepare your mind along with your body. A mind that is in-shape will take you a lot more places than a well-conditioned body. ■

Gale Sayers is considered one of the greatest running backs of all time. The former Chicago Bear is a member of the National Football League's Hall of Fame.

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# TARPLEY JOINS CBA TEAM

DALLAS - Roy Tarpley, banned from the NBA for refusing to take a mandatory drug test, returned to pro basketball Tuesday night as a member of the Wichita Falls Texans of the Continental Basketball Association.

Although the Texans fell to the Tri-City Chinook 92-87, Tarpley made a big return scoring 18 points, pulling down 16 rebounds and blocking 3 shots.

The former NBA star was greeted with a standing ovation by 3,319 fans that night.

Tarpley, the most talented and troubled player in Dallas

## Men's Summer Basketball League Begins

Registration takes place March 23 through April 3 for a men's summer basketball league sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Municipal Sports Unit. The cost is \$260 per team of 12 players, plus a \$20 official's fee. The league is limited to first 15 teams meeting the registration deadline. League play begins May 18 at 6:30 p.m. and continues each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday thereafter, at the Stewart/Mojave Sports Center, 275 N. Mojave Road. A pre-season tournament determining eligibility level takes place May 4-11, which follows the May 1 organizational meeting for coaches. Call 229-2089.

Mavericks history, was banned for two years from the NBA on Oct. 16, when he refused to take a drug test and received strike three in the NBA's antidrug program.

He applied for CBA admission

on Feb. 21 and was accepted six days later. However, Tarpley chose not to play right away, and the Texans left the door open for him to join them when he felt he was ready.

The CBA requires drug tests

from players upon admittance into the league and randomly throughout the season.

Wichita Falls finishes the season with home games against Columbus on Thursday and Omaha on Sunday.

## MILLERS GENUINE DRAFT PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN OLYMPIC HOPEFULS

MILWAUKEE — For the second consecutive year, Miller Brewing Company will provide support to the National Brotherhood of Skiers (NBS) to help the organization identify and prepare African-American skiers to take their place on U.S. Olympic Ski Team. Miller Genuine Draft will donate \$5,000 to the NBS's Olympic Development Fund during a presentation to be held February 26 at the organization's Mini Summit at Copper Mountain, Colo. "Many talented skiers are unable to pay for the special training needed to hone their skills on the slopes," said Noel Hankin, Miller's director of marketing relations.

"We are pleased to help the National Brotherhood of Skiers in its efforts to ensure that qualified African-Americans will soon represent the United States as members of the U.S. Ski Team."

NBS is a 19-year-old organi-

## Long Jumper Powell Wins Sullivan Award

INDIANAPOLIS - Mike Powell, who broke Bob Beamon's storied 23-year-old world record in the long jump, was presented the Sullivan Award on Monday night as the nation's top amateur athlete for 1991. Powell, 28, finished first among 10 finalists in national voting for the award by some 2,500 people. The voting included the media, past winners and representatives of the nation's amateur athletic programs. It was presented by the Amateur Athletic Union.

The voting was based on 1991 accomplishments, but Powell finished first in voting that included two gold medalists in last month's Winter Olympics - figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi and skier Donna Weinbrech, who also was a finalist last year.

zation composed of 72 predominantly African-American ski clubs in 62 cities.

Miller is a wholly owned subsidiary of Philip Morris Companies Inc.

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#### PRO BASKETBALL

##### NBA LEADERS (as of 3/12/92)

##### SCORERS

Michael Jordan, Chicago 29.7

D. Wilkins, Atlanta 28.1

Karl Malone, Utah 28.0

##### REBOUNDS

Dennis Rodman, Detroit 18.8

Kevin Willis, Atlanta 16.4

D. Mutombo, Denver 12.7

##### ASSISTS

John Stockton, Utah 14.1

Kevin Johnson, Phoenix 10.5

Tim Hardaway, Golden St. 9.7

##### NOTES:-

Los Angeles forward James Worthy is expected to miss at least five more games because of swelling in his left knee. Worthy was placed on the injured list this past Tuesday by the Lakers.

##### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

##### TOP 5 (as of 3/04/92):

1. DUKE 25-2

2. ARIZONA 24-4

3. INDIANA 22-5

4. KANSAS 23-4

#### 5. UNLV

26-2

#### BOXING

##### NOTES:-

Las Vegas Eddie Cook will face

Israel Contieras for the Bantam-

weight World Championship at

Bally's Hotel this coming Sun-

day, March 15 at 6:30p.m.

#### PRO FOOTBALL

#### NOTES:-

The San Francisco 49ers and the

Washington Redskins, two of the

most successful NFL teams of the

past decade, will meet August 16 in

London's Wembley Stadium. The

49ers and the Redskins have won

seven Super Bowls between them

since 1981.

## VEGAS LANDSCAPING

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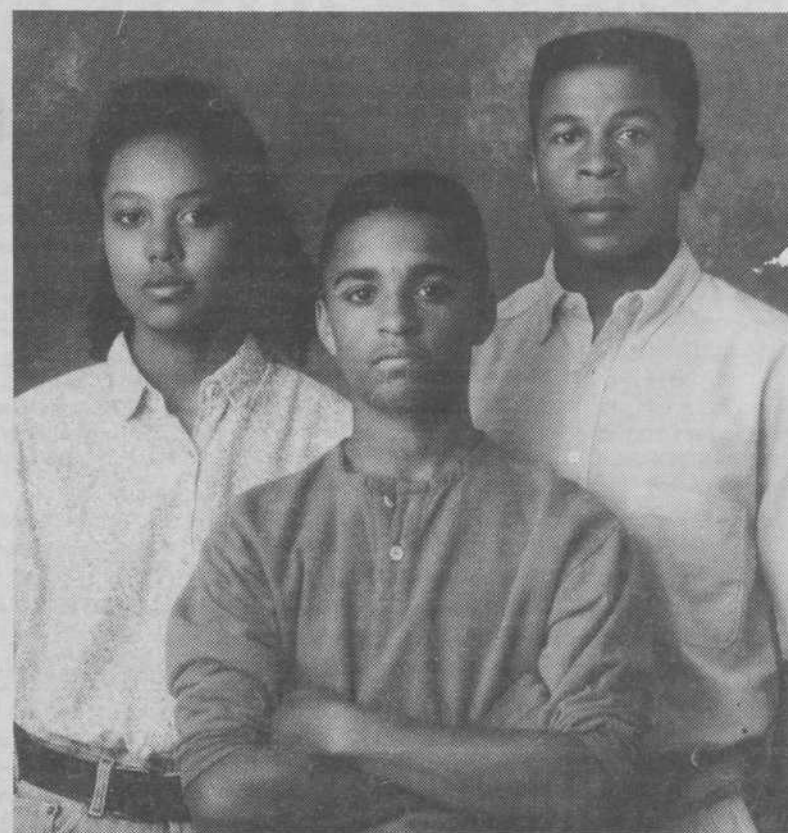
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That's why your donation to the United Negro College Fund is so important. As the most experienced source in providing general operating support for historically black colleges, we've enabled thousands of deserving students to get a quality education.

But there are still thousands who urgently need your support. How can we possibly say yes to one and no to another? Send your donation to: UNCF, 500 E. 62nd St., New York, NY 10021.

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