

BLACK COACHES & BLACK CAUCUS UNIFY VOICES - TO EDUCATE NCAA

Special to the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice
Commentary by Leland Stein
Part II

When I asked Thompson if the NCAA really understands or cares about their concerns, he said, "I don't think they understand, but they will be made to understand more clearly by our actions."

Temple's John Chaney emphasized the point, saying: "I think they know. We have expressed our ideas and concerns many times, but do they really care? No!

"If you are going to service youth and the community, then higher education has to address the needs of all. We are saying education is important, but so is athletics. It has a great influence on other youngsters and a great influence in terms of whether they become productive citizens or not. They are depriving our kids of an aspiration level that everyone of them needs to have. All the studies show and very clearly that through higher education the youth gain entry into society and become contributions into society. And sports maybe the vehicle to get them

there."

I didn't hear one coach deny the process needed improvement or education should be a top priority, but Proposition 48 and it's subsequent riders enacted by the naive Presidents Commission and NCAA officials is wrong in it's present condition.

The mission statement of education is to educate as many people as humanly possible; thereby, making productive members of society. How can the NCAA and Presidents Commission choose the opposite direction?

Thompson thinks it is a "lack of creativity on the part of the administrators" and it is easier to "solve the problems by eliminating people." He also thinks this just puts the burden elsewhere based on what's going on in the communities. "With all the crime, drugs and social unrest going on, it's the worst time in the world to do what we are doing and one of the purposes of our educational institutions should be to have a direct affect on what's going on in our society," he said.

The BCA's and Black Caucus' action agenda hopes to educate the educators. "Collectively we are looking to improve the process and increase opportunities. Certainly we don't want to eliminate opportunities. Moreover, opportunities have been few and far between in the first place, given the few NCAA sports we participate in anyway," explained Vivian.

With no real voice on the College Presidents Committee and at the NCAA, the decisions being enacted are one-sided in their implementation. Although, this may not be the intent, it is a fact none the less.

"I think that (the lack of representation) is one of our major concerns, we have people who are representing the interest of the young and low income kids and they have no inkling whatsoever what their situation is, and what realistically a scholarship really means," explained Thompson. "A scholarship doesn't just mean a form of recreation to a low income black kid. It means necessity. It means life or death. It's not something most kids are doing in the by-passing."

I know when people step out on faith with a let's change the system agenda, they open themselves up to retaliation and a "don't buck the system" attitude from their bosses.

Said Raveling about potential job retaliation, "You have to take a risk. Martin Luther King once said, 'If a man hasn't found something he is willing to die for, then maybe he's not fit to live.' So, you just have to decide this is so important that if I have to loose my job so be it."

There is a undeniable truth that many of the athletes come from poor backgrounds, so most of the coaches believe a stipend would be a good thing.

In addressing why something

(momentary support to the student athletes) so obvious refuses to be implemented, Raveling said, "I think it is one of the great mysteries of mankind. You can look the length and depth of our universe today and see some of the simplest things are the most difficult for human beings to comprehend and accept."

"Kids come into academic situations and they are not able to fulfill themselves in the total experience, because some of them are not permitted to work and many of them have no means to supplement their economic situation from home," added Thompson.

What they have done and continue to do is exclude kids from the process - especially the minority student.

I remember Chaney and others noting they "probably wouldn't have passed the SAT as freshman."

Now, who can deny Chaney's status in the community and his molding of hundreds of youths into positive people? To this aim, I say the SAT should be used as a gauge toward determining the deficiencies and strengths of a

prospective student athlete. Using the SAT scores, the student athlete can be counseled and guided into a curriculum that best suits their strengths. It should not be used as an absolute truth!

Well, it shouldn't stay this way for long, because the BCA and Black Caucus are employing a unified voice, and the seeds foreducating the educators have been planted and is growing into a viable action agenda.

Leland Stein is Sports Editor of The Black Voice News in Riverside, California

These activities are sponsored by The City of Las Vegas

LOCAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONALIZED WEIGHT TRAINING

Personalized weight training programs are available through the Mirabelli Community Center, 6200 Elton Ave., for \$2 per day, or \$10 per month. Qualified City personnel will work with you to develop a program catered to your individual needs.

Call 229-6359 for an appointment.

AFTER-SCHOOL 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL LEAGUE

An after-school, three-on-three basketball program is now being organized at the Mirabelli Community Center, 6200 Elton Ave. Play began Wednesday, November 3, and will continue each Monday and Wednesday, at 3:30 p.m.,

through December 15.

The program is designed for ages 7-17, and uses strategies for half-court, outdoor competition. Trophies will be awarded for first and second place winners. Registration is \$2.

Call 229-6359 for more information.

HOT SHOT BASKETBALL PROGRAM

A hot shot basketball program began Friday, November 12 at the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Rd. Play begins at 3 p.m., each Friday thereafter.

The program is designed for ages 8-15, and will concentrate on networking local youth in hopes of developing future leagues. The cost is \$1.

Call 229-6563 for more information.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"When I make love to my wife, Judy, I picture him, that's how bad I want him," said Riddick Bowe about Evander Holyfield.

Photos: R.Savoy/LVSV Sports



Willie Will's BEST BETS

THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS:

San Francisco -14 v. L.A. Rams

New York Giants -7 v. Phoenix

San Diego -2 v. Indianapolis

THE BEST TOTAL 4-THE WEEK

Denver v. Seattle

UNDER 38

A LOOK AHEAD

OVERALL: 33-36-3 - .478%

With the Cowboys ailing in Dallas, the 49ers look to be the best team in football right now. The road team in this series tends to go cover the number. The New York Giants will absolutely crush the Phoenix Cardinals. New York has an off day last Sunday, but it was expected. This week - domination!!! San Diego will respond this week, provided Bobby Humphries gets the nod before the opening kickoff. As usual, the Oilers will struggle one week following a contest with Cleveland. Pittsburgh will be pumped for the game, and even though they're on the road, remember - Houston is a terrible Home Favorite. The Broncos will be taking Seattle too lightly, while looking ahead to San Diego, and get caught in doing so. Expect a low number from a slow paced game between the AFC West rivals.

THE BEST DOGS ON THE BOARD

Pittsburgh +3 v. Houston

Seattle +3 v. Denver

A LOOK BACK

LAST WEEK: 2-4-333%

Dallas -10 v. Atlanta

San Diego -3 v. L.A. Raiders

Denver -3 v. Pittsburgh

Cleveland +4 v. Houston

Detroit +3 v. Green Bay

Indianapolis v. Buffalo

UNDER 38

The struggle continues for profit as only two winners can be cashed at the window. Emmitt Smith ruined any chance for a 2nd Half comeback; Chargers-Choke; The Browns couldn't keep up in the dog pound; Detroit lost the momentum to the home crowd and fell outright!!! Denver nails Pittsburgh while the Bills and Indy fall under.

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