

CHRONIC MYOPIA HINDERS NCAA'S DEALINGS WITH BLACK COACHES

Special to the
Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice
By Leland Stein
Sports Editor
Black Voice News

In recent weeks, the Black Coaches Association (BCA) and others have made visible their dissatisfaction with the NCAA and President's Commission's continued push of careless and loosely constructed legislation - Prop 48 and its subsequent riders - that in their mind improves the process; budget reductions, collegiate athletic academics, graduation rates, number of coaches, scholarship qualifications, etc.

In particular, the recent rejection of the return of the 14th to succeed."

Added George Raveling, head coach at USC: "With the absence of equity in the NCAA's regulatory processes, far too often, NCAA legislation has proven to have a negative impact on the African-American student-athlete."

"Why are these issues important to you?" I asked.

"We are saying education is important, but so is athletics," explained Temple Head Coach John Chaney. "It has a great influence on other youngsters and a great influence in terms of whether they become productive citizens or not."

"They (the NCAA and Presidents Commission) are depriving our kids of an aspiration level that everyone of them needs to have. All the studies show very clearly that through higher education the youth gain entry into society and become viable contributors into that society. And sports maybe the vehicle to get them here."

Added Raveling: "The ramifications of certain

NCAA legislation reach beyond the academic environment and into our urban communities. The messages that youngsters are receiving is one of exclusion. Yet it is clear that legislation continues to be pushed forward without regard for those who might suffer the consequences of it."

In interviewing the coaches one-on-one, I could see and feel their words were heartfelt and they truly believed in what they were doing. But when I read stories that question their motives and integrity, I can't help but wonder why.

Why can't people take for face value the issues they have brought to the table without clouding the picture with non-related analogies? After all, most of these men and women coach at some of the most prestigious universities in America; and have stood the test of time, played by the rules, labored within the NCAA system.

Can all of these Americans have deceitful motives - there are over 3,000 members in the BCA - and have an agenda other than the one outlined?

I say no way. Let's address the issues these outstanding men and women have outlined at face value.

Scholar T.J. Liggett says that many Americans suffer from "Chronic Myopia" and an "inability to see beyond their own doorstep."

Myopia is a condition which enables a person to see the immediate (thus the NCAA's insistence on scholarship reductions as a means to decrease cost) and the near, but leaves that same person (the NCAA) with a defective vision of distant objects (the youth the scholarships service).

It is estimated the cost of a single scholarship (See *Chronic Myopia*, Page 22)

BLACK HISTORY

(Continued From Page 20)

had to be gentlemen, because we were representing our town. One of the things that you had to observe to be on the team was that your conduct was as important as how well you played basketball."

Erving's standards remained on that level right through the day he was inducted into the Hall of Fame, recalling contributions made towards his success by a string of coaches "and the millions of fans who, with my family and friends, touched me emotionally and spiritually." His gesture towards those who he felt carried his career, was typical of a man that will always remain a class act.

If the Doctor was considered an ambassador for any certain era, he definitely passed the

torch on in 1984. It was the final year that Erving would find a spot on the All-NBA squad and the first year that a newcomer on the scene would stake claim to the brand new era.

Michael Jordan burst on to the scene for the 1984-85 season, won Rookie of the Year, nabbed the Schick Award, was named to the All-Rookie team, and was also named to the All-NBA second team.

He immediately stepped in front of Orlando Woolridge's way, becoming Chicago's leading scorer, not to mention the league's #3 scorer behind Bernard King and Larry Bird. The following year Jordan suffered a broken foot and only saw action in 18 games.

Following the 1986-87 season, when good friend Magic

Johnson was picking up his fourth NBA title, Jordan was slowly creeping his team towards the top of the league, turning the Bulls into contenders. Jordan ended the season with a scoring average of 37.1 ppg., 2.8 steals, and was named first team All-NBA.

The Bulls would continue to grow in the Eastern Conference over the next few years, but wouldn't taste any part of the NBA Finals until the '90-'91 season, when Jordan would face arguably the past decade's Most Valuable Player in Johnson. Air v.s. Magic!!! The Bulls disposed of L.A. in five games, and would go on to win two more NBA Finals to become the first team since the 1966 Boston Celtics to win three consecutive NBA titles. (See *Black History*, Page 22)



★★★★
YOUTH
BASEBALL LEAGUE

The Doolittle Community Center is currently accepting interest cards from all youths 6-15 years old interested in participating in a hardball baseball league in West Las Vegas. Stop by the center located 1901 North "J" Street and Lake Mead and fill out a registration form Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-9 p.m. And Saturday 9 a.m.-

★★★★

Community Block Party
UNITY FESTIVAL '94"

ATTENTION all Drill Teams, Step Squads, Adult Softball Teams (men and women), and 3-on-3 Basketball Teams. The Doolittle Community Center in conjunction with KCEP Radio Station and the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee is currently accepting applications for

4 p.m. or call 229-6374 for more information. Coaches needed also.

participation in the 2nd Annual Community Block Party Unity Festival '94" May 21, 1994. All groups interested in participating in this year's program should pick up an application at the Doolittle Community Center located at 1901 North "J" Street at Lake Mead. Submit your application today and be part of this positive community activity.

Call 229-6374 for more information.

These activities are sponsored by The City of Las Vegas

LOCAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

★★★★

CORPORATE CHALLENGE

The ninth annual Corporate Challenge games, sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities, is rapidly approaching. Opening ceremonies take place Sat., March 26 at Freedom park (E. Washington Ave. at No. Mojave Rd.).

Dave Parker, Corporate Challenge Coordinator for the City, reminds all corporations planning on competing in this year's challenge, that the registration deadline is February 1.

Corporations that have not submitted their registration fees are asked to call the City's Corporate Challenge office at 229-6706 for details.

★★★★

LITTLE LEAGUE
SIGNUPS

The Paradise Valley American Division Little League is will be holding "Sign-ups" again at the cafeteria of the K.O. Knudson Middle School on Saturday January 29th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The school is located on the Northwest corner of E. Sahara and Atlantic Avenues. First time players need to bring a birth certificate and a current proof of residence

within the league boundaries. For further information call the P.V.A. hotline at 732-1125.

★★★★

SOCCER GOALIE CLINIC

Those interested in becoming a soccer goalie can gain specialized training at the Johnson Community School, 7701 Durachme Ave., on Saturday, Feb. 5. The Community School is offering a clinic for youth 8-11 years old, covering the basic techniques of the position.

Registration continued through Feb. 4 at the cost of 410.

★★★★

**THE NATION'S TOP HANDICAPPER
IN PRO AND COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

MIKE ANTHONY

"\$50 Best Bet Line

1-900-976-0888

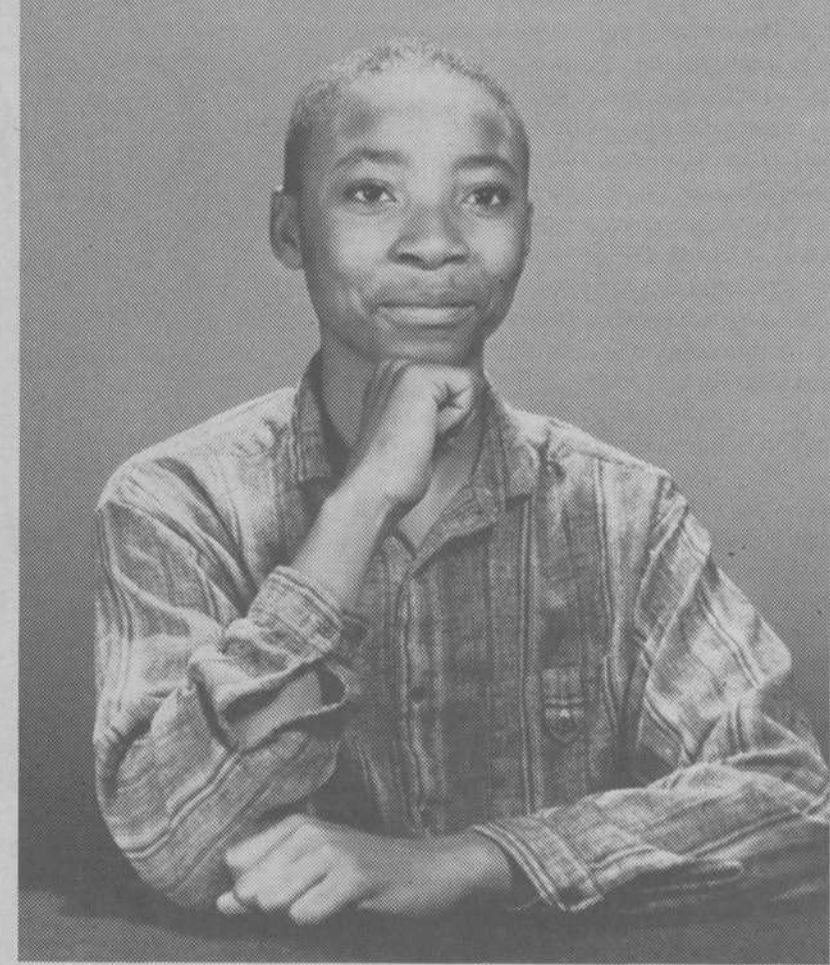
THURSDAY
Chicago Bulls@
Milwaukee Bucks

\$19.95 per call

1-900-884-3131

SATURDAY-AM
Duquesne @
St. Bonaventure

Must Be At Least 18 years or Older to call




DRUNK DRIVING DOESN'T JUST KILL DRUNK DRIVERS.

Alonzo Drake, killed 3/17/91 at 10:53pm on Robbins Rd., Harvest, AL.

Next time your friend insists on driving drunk, do whatever it takes to stop him.

Because if he kills innocent people, how will you live with yourself?



FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.