

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY KENNY WASHINGTON

By Gwen Walker

The great halfback of UCLA, once threw a pass 65 yards against USC in 1937 for a collegiate record. A great passer and rusher, he made the All-American team in 1939. He joined the Hollywood Bears of the Pacific coast pro-league in 1940 and was 4-times All-Pacific Halfback.

Kenny broke the 13-year colorline of the National Football League, when he signed with the L.A. Rams in 1946. He was great!

His last season, due to injuries, was 1949. He opened the door for blacks in pro-football, born in Los Angeles. He started his athletic career at Lincoln High; playing football, baseball and track. He was known as the "General" at UCLA. He was voted one of 2 greatest football players of all-time in Los Angeles by the Helms Athletic Foundation.



# ROLLIE

(Continued From Page 18)

into oblivion and only be able to beat schools by the name of Adelphi?

How about looking at this perspective? First it was Lawrence Thomas, then Clayton Johnson. Two major casualties that undoubtedly put a wrinkle in UNLV's attack. Hello! Did injuries ever cross any of you narrow-minded people at all? All you diehard Rebel followers are really nothing but fair-weathered fans.

Last season you cheered and screamed and yelled during the beginning of UNLV games, Hell, you even thought of Marlon Brando when the band began

playing The Godfather. Why?

At the time Coach Mass had three potential All-American players in Dexter Boney, Evric Gray and NBA Slam-Dunk Champion Isaiah Rider. Sure UNLV was going to be exciting, you all ate it up. Now its a transitional period. A rebuilding stage. Unfortunately Clayton and LT's situation made things worse. Where did you all disappear to?

"There is no such thing as 'what ifs,'" admits Massimino. "All I can say is that the only team that can lose their two starters, or two-and-a-half starters, including Reggie (Manuel) going down, is a team like North

Carolina. Their bench is 10 or 12 deep." Manuel was injured in the middle of the season for a short period of time, and the Rebels snagged on to a brief losing streak.

Thomas missed 22 games this season with a broken foot. Johnson was designated to add a bit of force inside but had to have reconstructive surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. Seth Myers missed the majority of the season with a torn ligament in his right thumb.

Players that played throughout the season but were hampered by nagging injuries included Ken Gibson, Brian

Hocevar, Jermaine Smith and Damian Smith.

Well its been five days since UNLV's season has ended, but Coach Mass says he is excited for next year while anticipating an uphill climb.

"I'm excited about what we've got to do, and how we're gonna do it. It could be a fun year. Its not gonna be an easy year since all our non-league games will be away.

"But its gonna be fun, its gonna be a new experience for some and if we get a good recruiting class in we should be O.K." Don't you fret Rollie, in Las Vegas, 3-times-7 wins every time - that's 21!!!

## ATHLETES

(Continued From Page 19)

However, it's possible in some cases to consider returning them to competition later, Maron adds.

Only about 20 percent of these athletes were screened before engaging in competition, and the tests usually failed to identify heart disease. But such screenings usually don't include echocardiograms (ultrasound examinations of the heart) and electrocardiograms (a visual record of the heart's electrical activity), Maron explains, "and the diseases may not have been detectable anyway, due to their nature."

Other heart-related causes that contributed to the athletes' deaths included Marfan syndrome, dilated cardiomyopathy, mitral valve prolapse, right ventricular dysplasia and coronary artery disease.

Most of these athletes had no symptoms prior to their death. "To a certain extent, that's a result of pre-selection," Maron says, "because many instances of fainting or some other symptom would have resulted in an evaluation and a withdrawal from competition."

Joseph P. Ornato, M.D., professor of internal medicine and cardiology at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond and chair of the AHA's committee on emergency cardiac care says that automated external defibrillators - devices that can automatically sense an erratic heartbeat and shock the heart back to normal rhythm with a jolt of electricity - would be useful additions to athletic facilities. These instruments can be used by anyone with limited training and have the potential to reverse life-threatening rhythm disturbances.

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