

Black football coaches find little room at top of profession

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— Of Indiana's 308 high school football programs, only six are run by black coaches, according to a newspaper report. Those six programs are at schools in Gary and Fort Wayne.

In the 25 high school programs in Indianapolis, where 38.7 percent of the football players are black, there's not a single black head coach, *The Indianapolis Star and News* reported last week.

The report cited several reasons for the state's lack of black coaches. In Indiana, football and boys basketball head coaches must be certified teachers, and there are scarce numbers of black males becoming teachers in

the state.

Also, qualified black assistants are not taking advantage of head coaching opportunities that come up. Only one of the 12 black assistant coaches in Marion and surrounding counties has applied for openings in the area in the past five years.

Blacks who do pursue head coaching positions are often eliminated from the hiring process because schools have preferred candidates from their existing coaching staffs. These candidates rarely include minorities.

The Indiana High School Athletic Association doesn't seem worried about the dearth of black coaches.

"I don't know what we can do, but obviously, we should try to do something to encourage them (to get into coaching)."

— Mo Moriarity

Commissioner Bob Gardner said it isn't the IHSAA's role to oversee the racial makeup of coaching staffs.

He said the association encourages schools to hire the best candidates available.

But Mo Moriarity, Bloomington South's football coach and president of the Indiana Football Coaches Association, said something needs to be done.

"I don't know what we

can do," Moriarity said. "But obviously, we should try to do something to encourage them (to get into coaching)."

That sentiment is echoed by parents who wish there were more black coaches to serve as role models.

"We emulate what we see," said Gwen Moore, whose son, Corrigan Stewart, plays football for Northwest High School. "It would be more positive for kids to see

and work with people like them."

Neighboring states have black coaches at schools in rural and urban areas. Even Kentucky, with 98 fewer high schools playing football, has one more black head coach than Indiana.

Neither Ohio nor Michigan require high school coaches to be certified teachers. In Ohio, blacks lead high school teams in Dayton, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo. In Michigan, there are black head coaches in Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

John Burton, who is black, has seen the statistics and knows the state's history. But

he's determined to coach a high school football team in Indiana.

Burton moved his family to Fishers from California after serving as an assistant coach at the Division II and III collegiate levels and on the junior college circuits.

"Coming back (to Indiana) is my way of giving something back to the kids through guidance," said Burton, 41, an assistant coach and guidance counselor at Bishop Chatard High School. "Those kids in the inner city need help and that is what I'm going to do." But his new task won't be easy. There has never been a black coach in any of the 14 township schools in Marion County.

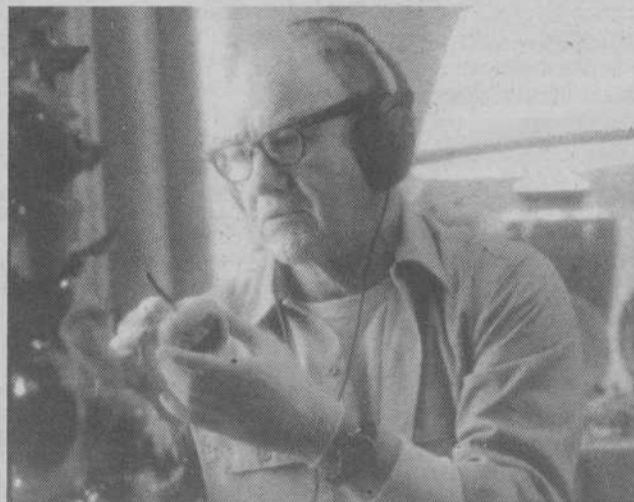
Enemy

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Will Smith does an admirable job as the everyday man who is placed in extraordinary circumstances. Smith exudes a wholesome, but hip charm that plays well here as his role develops from prominent attorney and stable family man to befuddled, on-the-run victim to a take charge man with a plan of action.

When Smith decides to strike back he doesn't engage in the macho, over-the-top posturing commonly seen in most action flicks.

He's noticeably nervous, angry, but quick thinking and sensitive too. This versatile,



Academy Award® winner Gene Hackman stars as a mysterious information broker known only as Brill, who comes to the aide of Dean (Smith), the innocent victim of a political cover-up.

fairly well-acted role will further solidify Smith's placement on Hollywood's A-list.

The supporting cast is given a pitifully small amount of screen time, but they add a human touch to this story so that it doesn't become an overblown epic.

Regina King is a Cassandra figure who warns Smith's character about the dangers of a government that

can freely intrude into anyone's life.

Unfortunately, her proven talents are wasted when she is quickly converted to the devastated, but loyal wife who goes to a safe haven during most of the action of the movie.

King could have convincingly portrayed a smart, feisty partner to foil Voight and company along with Smith and Hackman.

Lisa Bonet ably portrays the Dean character's old flame and business contact with just the right amount of longing, regret and sensuality, but her role in the film is minimal.

Despite the fact that only Will Smith's character is developed and the film spends an excessive amount of time showing off the "techno-wizardry", *Enemy of the State* is a treat for a viewer hungry for a kinetic, visual thriller.

Movies

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global box office is poised to grow dramatically in the near future.

The perception that "ethnic movies" don't play overseas is the rule.

Hollywood's studio executives say, "Most other countries can't relate to black baseball movies, period dramas about football, rap and inner-city films. Americana is desired by international markets, but there comes a point where they will resist and say, "We don't get it" and it's generally in films that are ethnic, inner-city and sports-driven."

Producers deny that racism is involved, calling it "an economic decision" They say, "studios don't care how they make their money, but history shows black movies don't translate in foreign markets."

Blacks buy one of every five movie

tickets sold in America. We represent a billion dollar movie product audience and operators of Black Entertainment Television have announced a movie studio designed to make films by blacks for blacks.

BET will invest \$100 million to launch the venture. In contrast to Hollywood movie budgets which average more than \$70 million a film, BET's films will cost around \$2 million to make.

If more of us were capitalists we'd realize our economic clout and do more than munch popcorn and complain.

For more than 30 years in the early 1900s, black-owned studios and theaters spanned the country and showed our films. When will individuals, groups, and organizations band together to fund and produce black films for 30 million African-Americans again?

Network

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ABC network. Carsey-Werner-Mandabach, the production company behind such hits as "Third Rock From the Sun" and "The Cosby Show," would be the new channel's chief programmer.

Winfrey, whose talk show

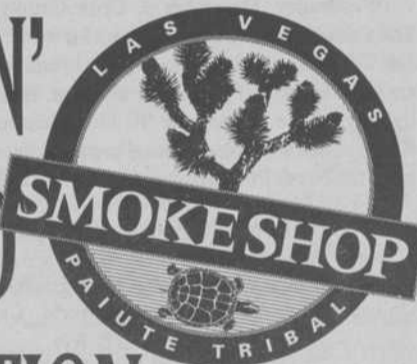
has dominated daytime programming, will contribute programming through Harpo.

According to *The New York Times*, a morning program block, called The Hive, would be talk oriented; the midday block, called Working Lunch, would deal with issues facing working

women, and the afternoon block would focus on teenage girls.

There would be a comedy block at night possibly using some shows produced by Carsey-Werner-Mandabach, such as "Roseanne," "Cybill" or "Grace Under Fire," the *Times* said.

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