

Black coaches rankled by hiring

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - The way Notre Dame went about replacing Tyrone Willingham had a greater affect on its minority hiring report card grade than its decision to fire the school's first Black football coach. The result: The Fighting Irish received a B from the Black Coaches Association.

"We look at the documented facts, and the firing is related to the overall picture," said Keith Harrison, who conducted the study for the BCA. "But the grade is what they earned."

South Carolina and Utah, however, were the only Division I schools that the BCA said failed to document their search process and joined three other schools that received F's on the report card released Wednesday. BCA executive director Floyd

"The BCA hopes all future recruits of color give consideration to the schools that give consideration to people of color because then... will there be a change in the hiring process."

— Floyd Keith
BCA Executive Director



Keith believes the report card also indicates the trend is getting worse.

While 13 of 30 schools that made coaching changes in the last year received either an A or B, more than half earned average, below average or failing grades. Among those at the bottom end were LSU, Florida and Marshall.

Schools are evaluated on categories that include the

in terms of diversity that is unsatisfactory."

When the report was released last fall, there were five Black coaches in the Division I-A. That number was reduced by almost half when three coaches, including Willingham, were either fired or quit. Willingham was later hired by Washington, which also received a B.

Five schools — Indiana, Illinois, Ohio University, UNLV and Western Michigan — received A's. Ohio and Western Michigan, both of the Mid-American Conference, were the only schools to receive an A in all five categories.

But five schools, including San Jose State and Southeast Louisiana, received F's. Five others, including LSU, Florida and The Citadel, received D's.

Indiana State, which hired West in January, received a C. It was given an F for its search committee, a grade that Harrison said meant no minorities were included on the committee.

"It's very important to highlight the schools that received A's and their best practices," said Charlotte Westerhaus, NCAA vice president for diversity and inclusion. "It's especially

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Keith again was disappointed by the results.

Of the 119 Division I-A football schools only three coaches—Mississippi's Sylvester Croom, UCLA's Karl Dorrell and Washington's Willingham—are Black. In Division I-AA, the plight is even worse.

Indiana State's Lou West is the only Black head coach at a predominantly White college for university.

percentage of minorities involved in the hiring process, the number of minority candidates who interviewed and the schools' contacts with either Keith or the chairman of the NCAA's Minority Opportunity and Interests Committee.

"This is worse, in average, than last year," Keith said. "In society, a C means average. On this report card, it represents the status quo, and

Eagles

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for the go-ahead touchdown with 2:43 left.

McMahon nearly led Philadelphia to the winning score after coming in for the last series. He drove the Eagles to the Dallas 42 before David Akers missed a 60-yard field goal attempt in the final seconds.

"It's a little more pressure. It's the real thing," McMahon said. "You have to be ready. It's the situation I've been waiting for. I'm going to do whatever it takes to win. I haven't started in a while, but it's not about starting. It's about going out and being productive with the offense."

In four seasons with Detroit, McMahon started seven games. He had a 43.8 completion percentage with 10 touchdown passes and 13 interceptions, but ran for 273 yards on 46 carries.

Detmer has been McNabb's backup the last six seasons. He was the No. 2 quarterback this year only because he holds the ball on extra points and field goals.

"Nothing against Koy. I feel I have two good quarterbacks I can trust," coach Andy Reid said. "Mike gives you more mobility. He knows the offense. He's efficient in the offense."

Tight end L.J. Smith played with McMahon at Rutgers. He said it won't be much of a "drop off" catching passes from him.

"I know him. He knows my routes," Smith said. "He's mobile like Don. He has a strong arm like Don. He's not afraid to make the long throws and he's tough, too."

McNabb clearly hasn't been the same quarterback who led the Eagles to the NFC championship game the last four years. He has thrown a costly interception in each of the last three games, and has nine picks this season.

He threw just eight interceptions last season when he became the first player in NFL history to throw more than 30 touchdown passes (31) and fewer than 10 interceptions.

important, though, to realize they are in the minority. ... It is an appalling situation."

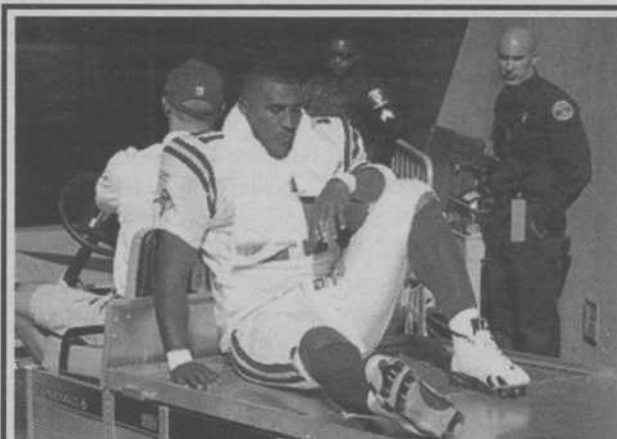
But Harrison explained the grades were objective.

For instance, Harrison said he personally questioned why Notre Dame would give new coach Charlie Weis a long-term contract extension after starting 5-2 in his first season while not offering the same kind of job security to Willingham when he started out 8-0 in his first season at Notre Dame. The report card, however, is not designed to weigh subjective opinions.

"It's impossible to quantify that aspect," Harrison said.

Keith has repeatedly urged recruits to use the report card as a gauge for school choices, and said the BCA would consider future legal action against universities if there is not significant improvement in next year's report.

"The BCA hopes all future recruits of color give consideration to the schools that give consideration to people of color because then, and only then, will there be a change in the hiring process," he said.



Quarterback Daunte Culpepper, seen here being taken off the field after sustaining a knee injury on Oct. 30, had surgery to repair torn ligaments in his right knee.

Vikings' Culpepper has knee repaired

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) - Minnesota Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper had surgery Tuesday to repair three torn ligaments in his right knee.

Culpepper, who was hurt on a low hit after running for first down on Oct. 30 at Carolina, had the operation done by noted orthopedic surgeon Dr. James Andrews in Birmingham, Ala.

The team said the surgery went as expected, and the three-time Pro Bowl pick is expected to be ready to participate in training camp next season — which means a recovery time of about nine months. Rehabilitation will begin immediately for Culpepper, who injured the anterior cruciate, medial collateral and posterior cruciate ligaments in the knee. "Daunte is the type of player who is going to work extremely hard to get back on the field," Vikings coach Mike Tice said. "He has the heart of a champion. His motivation to be the best will drive him as he works through this."

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