117 blacks taken in NFL's most prolific college crop

By SAM LACY
AFRO Sports Editor

What has been described as the most prolific assortment of talent in the history of the National Football League, produced an estimated 117 black prospects in the two-day midweek drafting of college graduates by the 26 pro clubs.

As often happens in these annual ivory runts, Carroll Rosenbloom's team was the most active in the acquisition of black hopefuls. His newly-acquired Los Angeles Ramy plucked eight, one more than the New England Patriots.

When he called the shots for the Baltimore Colts, Rosenbloom also displayed more interest in black talent than the rest of his colleagues.

Like the Patriots, the Minnesota Vikings selected seven non-white graduates.

The Pittsburgh Steelers, who reached the conference play-offs with the aid of a heavy infiltration of black performers, took six more for a 1973 look. Also acquiring six were the Buffalo Bills, Denver Broncos and Miami Dolphins, the Super Bowl champions.

The Baltimore Colts drafted five blacks, as did the San Francisco 49ers, Dallas Cowboys, Detroit Lions and Green Bay Packers.

Four each were taken by the New York Giants, Philadelphia Eagles, San Diego Chargers, Houston Oilers and Atlanta Falcons.

The Kansas City Chiefs picked up three promising blacks, the same number chosen by the New Orleans Saints, New York Jets, St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago Bears and Cleveland Browns.

The Oakland Raiders showed an interest in two, and the Washington Redskins, already heavily tinted and left with a minimum of picks as a result of frequent previous trades, settled on one.

* * *

Of particular inieresi is the fact that the pro clubs and their scouts must have spent considerable time on the campuses of predominantly-black colleges the past year.

Aside from 14 which were taken from AFRO-area schools of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, 29 went from teams of the Southern and South-western conferences.

Of these, Tennessee State supplied six and Grambling four.

Here is the breakdown of black choices from these schools, and the teams which made the selections:

TENN STATE (6) — Bob Picard, WAR, by Philadelphia; Ollie Smith, WR, by Baltimore; Charlie Wade, WR, by Miami; James Thaxton, TE, by Pittsburgh; Alfred Reese, RB, by San Diego, and Larry Pettus, T, by San Francisco;

GRAMBLING (4) — Lee Fobbs, RB, by Buffalo; Matt Reed, QB, by Buffalo; Walt Baisley, LB by Dallas John Billizon, DE, by New York Giants;

ALCORN (3) — Charles Davis and brother Clifton, RB, to New England and Giants, respectively; Willie McGhee, WR, San Diego;

PRAIRIE VIEW (2) — Hise Austin, DB, GREEN Bay; Louis Neal, WR, Oakland; TEXAS SOUTHERN (2) — Larry Smiley, DE, Minnesota; Mike Holmes, DB, San Francisco;

ARKANSAS AM and N (2) — Wallace Francis, WR, Buffalo; Terry Nelson, TE, Los Angeles; SOUTHERN (2 — Harold Sampson, DT, Green Bay; Eddie Bishop, DB, Minnesota;

One player was taken from: Centeral State (DE Don Walker by Buffalo); Morehouse College (DB William Montgomery by Cincinnati; Ala. A and M (RB Oliver Ross by Denver; Fort Valley State (WR Al); White by Kansas City Mississippi Valley (DE Nate Fort Valley State (WR AL White by Kansas City; Dorsey by Pittsburgh, Tuskegee (RB Leo Allen by Oakland, and Betnune (RB Charles Clark by Cincinnati.

WELCOME, SONNY! — Satchel Paige, an "old" resident of two years, extends welcome hand to former Boston Braves star Warren Spahn following announcement of Spahn's election to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Paige was first of the players from the all-black baseball leagues to be inducted. He was followed last August by the late Josh Gibson and former first baseman Buck Leonard.

Boat show spotlight on swift runabout

A super swift fiberglass runabout made in Maryland for the fellow who wants to get wherever he's going mightly fast will be among the features of the Chesapeake Bay Boat Show when it opens a nine-day run tomorrow (Saturday) at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

The 19-foot Topaz-19 is capable of whipping along in the high 50's thanks to her jet powered system.

More than 150 other small to medium size boats will be shown at the annual show, along with another 50 or more cruisers and sailboats.

Houston, however, nixed it.

Smith has been unhappy since John Sandusky was fired as head coach and has said he is considering sitting out the season if he is not traded to another team.

Colt GM says he moved to stop expected run

Joe Thomas, who says next season will be an even bigger one for running backs but that he has gotten the players to "force the pass," unloaded another Colt veteran Thursday sending strong safety Jerry Logan to the Los Angeles Rams for an undisclosed draft choice.

Logan, 31, from West Texas State, had not missed a game with the Colts since he became a starter in 1963. He was an All-Pro in 1970 and 1971 and combined with free safety Rick Volk to give the Colts among the best defenses against deep passes in the league.

He is the sixth Colt veteran to be traded in 11 days. Since Jan. 22 Thomas has traded away Johnny Unitas and Tom Matte to the San Diego Chargers; Billy Newsome to New Orleans, Norm Bulaich to Philadelphia and Bill Curry to Houston.

* * *

Thomas said the players he obtained in this week's draft, some of whom came on draft choices he got in the past week's trades, were as good as any he had ever drafted while building at Minnesota and Miami.

"We went for the big tall linemen and this was a good year for them. Everybody is going to run next year, to try to jam the ball through the line and I think we got the people to stop the run and force the pass," he said.

Thomas said he will name a new head coach for the Colts "by the middle of next week." He said he will be choosing from three or four current assistant coaches with various NFL teams.

* * *

Thomas was critical of the Houston Oilers for revealing that he had discussed the possibility of trading defensive end Bubba Smith to them for their first round draft choice.

"People talking trades just don't do things like that," he said. "It upsets players who may never be traded but whose names have been thrown in as lures."

However, Thomas said, "Yes, if I get the right price I would trade Bubba, the same as any other guy on our team." He said he had discussed trading Smith and the Colts number one draft choice to Houston for their first pick in the draft but said he would have had to get something more to complete the deal.

Aaron Stewart leads conference statistics

Aaron Stewart, the University of Richmond's black standout forward, continues to dominate Southern Conference individual statistics.

Stewart, a junior college transfer, tops the conference's individual scorers with a 29.6 point average, leads in field goal percentage with a 56.9 per cent accuracy mark and also leads in rebounds, averaging 11 caroms per game.

He became eligible for the Spiders at the semester break, and has played in only seven games.

Church Cordell of the Citadel leads in the individual free throw percentage, with an 88.9 per cent mark.

Davidson and Furman, the only teams still undefeated in conference play, continue to dominate the team offense category, with averages of 82.7 and 82.3 points per game. The Citadel leads in team defense, allowing just 70.7 points per game.

Davidson also leads in team field goal percentage (50.3 per cent) William, and Mary is tops in team free throw percentage (7.9 per cent), and East Carolina is ahead in rebounding percentage, with 55.9 per cent. (UPI)

PACKERS' PACTEE—Former Baltimore Colt Ron Gardin has been signed as a free agent by the Green Bay Packers. The 6-foot, 190 pound defensive back and kick returner was second in the AFC in punt runbacks in his rookie year. He since played with the Patriots, Steelers and Dolphins.

Young bowlers need assistance

The Youth Bowlers of Baltimore are conducting a public appeal for money to help offset traveling expenses to the State Junior Bowling tourney currently underway in Pocomoke City.

The president of the Woodlawn Junior-Senior Youth Bowling League of Baltimore, DeJuan Smith, has asked for contributions to be sent to him at his 3339 Ingleside Ave., Baltimore, 21215 address.

He explained that because the tournament has been moved to the Eastern Shore this year, the cost of transportation is prohibiting gifted yooung Baltimore bowlers from competing.

Redskins get Dave Robinson

The Washington Redskins acquired Green Bay Linebacker Dave Robinson Tuesday for an undisclosed future draft choice.

Robinson, a 10-year veteran who has made All-Pro several times in the past, was described by Redskins coach George Allen as "the model linebacker of pro football."

A first round draft choice from Penn State in 1963, Robinson also served as defensive captain for the Packers.

Rec Bureau schedules classes for umpires

The Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation is conducting classes for baseball umpires to officiate the 1973 sandlot baseball games. Umpires must attend at least 50 per cent of the classes on Wednesday evenings at the Montebello Elementary School, 32nd Street and Harford Road beginning at 7 P.M.

The classes will begin Wednesday, February 7, and continue through April 18.

Games are played at 6 p.m. on weekdays and at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Umpires are paid for their work.

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COACH CLASS PROGRAM
A new "Coach Class" program designed to prepare young men who live in the City to pass the entrance fire fighter tests.
Information
"Coach Classes" conducted by the Department of Education in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission and Fire Department, will be given in City High Schools during the day for high school students.
"Coach Classes" for other City residents will be held at Calvert Educational Center, Calvert Street and North Avenue starting 4:30 p.m., February 14, 1973. Applicants may register for this program at Room 408, Calvert Educational Center. Closing date for registration is February 7, 1973.
The basic purpose of the "Coach Class" is to help prepare qualified City Residents gain higher passing marks on the next fire fighter exam to be conducted by the Civil Service Commission on March 3, 1973.
While "Coach Class" attendance should enhance the participants' chances for appointment to the Fire Department, it should not be construed as a guarantee of appointment.
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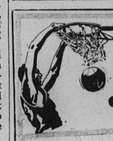

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IN THE LEGISLATURE

Douglass urges 20-year terms for 'pushers'

ANNAPOLIS — Del. John Douglass (D., 2nd District, Baltimore) announced the filing of a measure that he feels will have a "serious impact on efforts to eliminate drug traffic in Baltimore."

Douglass's bill would set a minimum 20-year prison sentence on all persons convicted of pushing drugs without any possibility of parole, probation or probation before verdict.

Douglass said the measure would accomplish this in two ways. On the one hand, it would "purge" the streets of known pushers by putting them away for long periods of time. While, on the other hand it would act as a further deterent to those who would be tempted by the possibility of making a quick financial killing.

"Laws to be effective deterents to crime must provide penalties commensurate with the profits to be gained by disobeying them.

"I perceive a greater threat in continuing drug abuse than apparently most law enforcers, including the Nixon Administration realize."

* * *

Last year Del. Douglass warned that cracking down on drug traffic including foreign connections, would have an undesired effect.

While drying up the sources of drug, it forces drug prices up, forcing addicts to steal more to support their habits. The result then, is more drug related crimes and more addics seeking new ways to appease their drug cravings by other means including barbiturates, he said.

He predicted that continuing rising prices of drugs and the enormous profits made from their sales will force an entirely new type of pusher into the drug business — "the individual entrepreneur, the nice guy or the average Joe."

"Tougher sentences will tend to deter these individual entrepreneurs," Douglass believes.

Mitchell, staff urge visits to State House

ANNAPOLIS—Clarence Mitchell, III (D., 4th Dist., Balto. City) would like to acquaint his constituents with his staff for the 1973 Maryland General Assembly Session.

His Annapolis office, suite-212 in the New Senate Office Building will be run by Mrs. Gertrude Makell, secretary.

Senator Mitchell said, "I urge all constituents to visit me at the 1973 legislative session. I hope you will bring all problems and opinions on legislation to the members of my staff who will keep me informed if you cannot reach me personally.

"My telephone number in Annapolis is 269-0164, ext. 5035 or constituents may write to me at the Senate Office Building."

Senator Mitchell also reminded his constituents that all District problems may be taken to his 4th District Legislative Office a 1239 Druid Hill Ave.

Misses Yvonne Scipio and Dianna Brown are assistants in this office.

The telephone number of the District Office is 523-4422. The home phone is 664-6550.

"Anyone who would like to serve as a volunteer legislative aide in Annapolis or Baltimore, please contact me for details."

Abrams favors tax credit to elderly

ANNAPOLIS — Sen. Rosalie S. Abrams (D., 5th District, Baltimore City) has introduced legislation to grant a property tax credit for the elderly.

The bill provides relief for Baltimore City residents over the age of 65 who have a total income of $5,000 or less and for all disabled persons receiving retirement benefits under Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Act with a gross income of $5,000 or less.

The benefits from Social Security and the Railroad Retirement Act would not be regarded as gross income.

The tax credit would equal 50 per cent of the assessed value of the person's property or $4,000, whichever is tre lesser amount, multiplied by the applicable subdivision tax rate.

In explaining the need for her legislation, Senator Abrams pointed out that while there is an existing statewide law intended to provide tax credits to those over 65, its implementation is not mandatory.

She added that the present law also neglects provision for disabled persons.

Blount challenges consumer protection

(AFRO Bureau)

ANNAPOLIS — In preparation for legislation to be introduced next week, Senator Clarence B'ount (D., 5th Balto. City) charged that the basic structure of the state's Consumer Protection Law is "weak" and in need of immediate re-examination.

Testifying before the House Judiciary Committee, Senator Blount asserted that the Consumer Protection Division of Maryland has no "real power. It cannot issue cease and desist orders. It cannot issue rules and regulations. It cannot subpoena records."

Under its present operation, the Office of Consumer Protection is not empowered to probe into complaints without the filing of a suit by the Attorney General's Office.

* * *

By establishing a Consumer Protection Division with no real authority, he said, "we have created the illusion of protection for the public without the substance. We have said to the public here is a place where you can get help, but they have no power to help you."

As a means of insuring the rights of the consumer, Senator Blount suggested that the Office of Consumer Protection be granted the power of subpeona whereby it could compel offending parties to produce documents on request.

As it now stands, he said, a person must be dragged into court before any determination of a suspected vilatin can be made representing a clear violation of his "individual rights."

Senator Blount, in conclusion, indicated that his proposed legislation "will do more than provide the power of subpoena as a consumer protection tool."

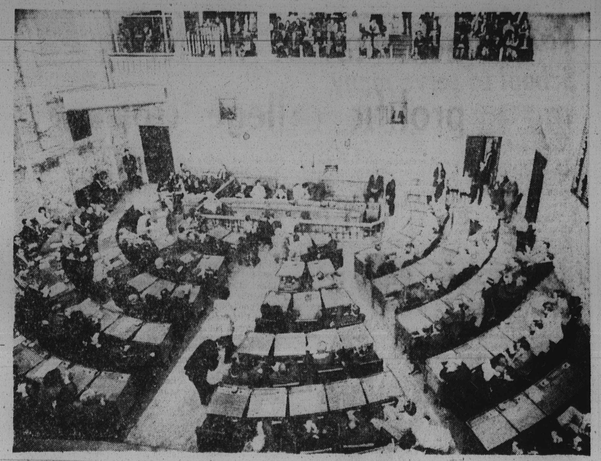
Bill to aid free press

Congressman Mitchell today introduced the Free Flow of Information Act of 1973 More than 48 house members are co-sponsors of the bill originated by Cong. Charles W. Whaler Jr. (R-Ohio)

The bill seeks to codify the right of journalists to keep unused information and their sources confidential.

Persons thus protected "shall not be required to disclose before the Congress or any Federal Court, grand jury or administrative entity any information or written, oral or pictorial material or the source of that information or material procured for publication or broadcast," the wording of the bill reads.

Congressman Mitchell said "The intent of the bill is precisely what its title indicates — to assure the free flow of information to the public. If newsmen are unable to guarantee their sources' anonymity, there would be a substantial, if not virtually complete, blackout of much hard news of the most essential kind and the public would suffer."



MARYLAND'S LAW MAKERS. — The 142 members of the House of Delegates meet daily in this gracious marbled wall chamber located in the State House to make the laws of the "Free State." This year's session of the legislature will extend through mid-April. Sessions of the General Assembly have been held almost continuously in Annapolis since 1777.

Groups praise Mandel for strong appointments

Governor Marvin Mandel's new Study Commission on the Structure and Governance of Education was praised this week by the Black Coalition of the University of Maryland and the Community Strategy Council for Higher Education.

The council and the coalition told the Governor that they were pleased with the appointments "both black and white" and they commended the Governor on the "quality and broad representation."

The Commission held its organization meeting at the Annapolis Inn Monday, Jan. 29 with Chairman Mathias J. DeVito presiding.

The letter from the council and coalition signed by Howard B. Rawlings, co-chairman, states:

"As a Marylander concerned about the content, quality, and process of education in the state. I read with some satisfaction the appointments to the Commission to Study Education. My knowledge of many of those appointed to the commission, both black and white, prompts me to commend you on the quality and broad representation achieved and your actions to honor your commitment of Jan. 18, 1972. There will be substantial representation from the black community on this Commission."

* * *

"Information to the public has generally indicated that the commission will have a duration of two years to complete its task.

During the two year period there conceivably could be a tendency among State officials to, directly or indirectly, institute a moratorium on efforts to remove the numerous inequities in educational system, especially at the level of higher education, and on your commitments to improve the quality and efficiency of delivery of education to the total citizenry. The citizens of Maryland can ill afford such a moratorium on efforts to improve education; otherwise we lose the momentum already gained in this direction.

You can be assured that the Black Coalition of the University of Maryland and the Community Strategy Council for Higher Education will be vigilant in its scrutiny of the deliberations of the commission and will continue to vigorously pursue the realization of our objectives, which are:

"1. To maximize blacks in the systems of higher education at all levels: as decision-makers, as heads of delivery systems, as educators, as students, as non-academic staff.

"2. To ensure active leadership roles for blacks in higher education so that blacks will be designers and managers and not just passive recipients of education systems.

"3. To fulfill the needs of the Black Community for professional and technical skills.

"Because the above objectives, are in the social, political, and economic interest of Maryland, I anticipate that the work of the commission will enhance their attainment and that your remaining term in office will result in practices by you and your administration to achieve them.

"I would appreciate receiving information that delineates the specif charges to the commission in terms of its mandate, breadth and depth of its study of education. In addition, what arrangements will there be to allow organizations to make inputs into the Commission's deliberations?

"Again, I commend you on the appointments to the Commission and look forward to be of assistance to you or others committed to the aforementioned objectives in concert with an educational system that reflects the egalitarian principles of Maryland and the nation."

THE STATE OF THINGS

A trend toward silence in the state legislature

By VAL HYMES

The freedom of the press has been not news ever since Maryland's former Gov. Spiro T. Agnew tore into the Fourth Estate for playing politics with typewriters.

Then the question of "takeouts," or unused bits of film, pitted a major TV network against a Congressional committee. In scattered areas around the country, newsmen were being jailed for refusing to cooperate with court demands.

But reporters in Maryland were not deeply involved in these issues, especially because this is one of the few states that protects them from dividing their sources. This protection, the Supreme Court has ruled, is not afforded by the U.S. Constitution.

But there's no call for mugness in Maryland, because today the freedom of the press is one of the key issues of the General Assembly's 1973 session.

Every year there have been effort to silence, "gag," or restrict the press in some way, such as putting conditions on the protection of sources, or requiring special identification issued by the State.

* * *

Floor Squeezeplay: Then House Speaker Thomas Hunter Lowe started squeezing reporters off the House floor by limiting seats, but he built glass press boxes in the gallery with sound equipment for tape recorders. The following year, he moved legislative aides into one box and cut off the sound in the other except for ceremonial sessions.

In the last two months, a Baltimore newsman's refusal to disclose a source in a drug sale story has gone all the way to the Supreme Court, and a couple of journalism groups have filed suit against Lowe and Senate President William S. James for prohibiting tape recorders and cameras in the public sessions of the General Assembly.

Meanwhile, Lowe and James authored a Legislative Council bill to prevent the press — or public — from looking at "certain" documents in the Legislative Accounting office, Legislative Reference, and Fiscal Services. "It only applies in the preparation stage," protests James, who with Lowe would become custodian of these records, with all appeal rights wiped out.

* * *

It's called the public information bill — SB 222 — and the League of Women voters says it "sets the tone for sunshine, closed doors and unrecorded committee votes and a variety of subterfuges to be foisted upon their constituents."

Sigma Delta Chi's freedom of information committee called it a "dangerous precedent," and predicted it would be followed by "a flurry of similar attempts to erode away the right to inspect public documents." The Legislative Correspondents Association protested as well, but no other members of the media appeared.

Maryland has had a public information law for years, restricted only by specific refences to "confidential" records, like delinquent taxes, or investigative files.

Sunshine Law: But Florida's "Sunshine Law" puts Maryland to shame by requiring that all public records and all public business be open to any citizen at any time. A similar bill is being co-sponsored in Congress by Maryland Sen. Charles Mathias and J. Glenn Beall to open government meetings to the public. Now, for example, committee meetings are open only when the committee votes to allow it.

Legislative leaders in Annapolis deny that their bill grew out of stories about legislative expense accounts or university salaries. Rather, they say it merely "clarifies" the traditional confidentiality of bill requests for legislators."

The David Lightman Sunpapers case is the first Maryland test of a reporter's right not only to protect his source, but to be protected if he is the source himself. This case originated three bills in the Maryland House, now being merged by the sponsors, Dels. Charles Blumenthal (Prince George's), Donald Hutchinson (Baltimore County) and Frank Robey (Baltimore City).

They each refer to a "frightening trend" toward harrassment by government of the news media.

Then last, but hardly least, was Governor Mandel's announcement in his State of the State message that he would draft a "shield" bill too, and it will address itself also to the "outtakes" question, involving unpublished materials or notes.

He said the "Fourth Branch of government — our friends and adversaries — are under an ugly and relentless siege to deny them an important tool of their craft, immunity from persecution and harrassment."

* * *

Artful Dodger: The right to practice the adversary role without fear, he said, is a "cherished right" now needing "a new and impregnable shield behind which newsmen can enjoy their legitimate right, unfettered and free of attack from those who would destroy (it)."

So the question of the First Amendment comes squarely to roost in Maryland.

What really is at stake today is not only the freedom of the press, but the public's right to know.

When a reporter is kept in the dark, it is the voters who cannot see.

King seeks racial balance in schools

(AFRO Bureau)

ANNAPOLIS — Del. Arthur King (D., Prince George's) has entered a bill aimed at the prevention and elimination of "racial and ethnic imbalance in pupil enrollment" in Maryland public schools.

The measure, currently under review by the House committee on Constitutional and Administrative Law, would not only establish priorities to be used in decisions relating to school sites, attendance areas, and attendance practices, but would also call for the adoption of rules and regulations to insure their implimentation.

Under Del. King's proposal, a racial or ethnic imbalance is indicated in a school if the percentage of pupils of one or more racial or ethnic groups differs significantly from the district-wide percentage.

* * *

His bill also urges that the governing board of each school district periodically submit statistical data to the state board which would enable a determination to be made of the numbers and percentages of the various racial and ethnic groups in every public school under the jurisdiction" of each district board.

Likewise, Del. King's proposal carries an added stipulation that in considering any alternative plans, the school district "shall analyze the total educational impact of the plans on the pupils of the district."

Reports of such a district study and resulting plans of action with schedules of implimentation, will next be submitted to the district department of education.

At such time, the distrigt department will determine the adequacy of the plan, reporting its findings to the State Board of Education.

A summary report of their findings will then be submitted to the legislature each year.

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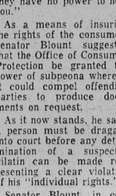

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