Md., Eastern Shore star on NBA 'hardship' list

Twenty college players who have yet to graduate are listed as hardship cases by the National Basketball Association.

This means they can be offered pro contracts, if they choose to accept them, even though their classes have not completed the senior year in school.

Maryland, Eastern Shore's Rubin Collins is one of 16 black stars included among the 20 who now are eligible to be drafted at the NBA meeting in New York later this month.

Collins is a junior and was a member of the Hawks five which ran up a 26-2 mark last season and became the first team from a predominately-black school to compete in the National Invitation Tournament where they whipped Manhattan.

* * *

Also on the list are All-American James "Fly" Williams of Austin Peay, Gary Brokaw, a key figure along with John Shumate in the success of Notre Dame's 1973-74 team, and Maurice Lucas, mainstay of the consistently strong Marquette cage aggregation.

Among others tabbed as "hardship" cases by the NXA are the Pondexter brothers of Long Beach State—junior Roscoe and sophomore Clifton; Campy Russell and Mike Sojourner, who took their respective teams, Michigan and Utah, to the NCAA semi-finals, and Henry Williams of Jacksonville, hero of the Dolphins' NIT bid.

* * *

Also listed as available for drafting by the pro league are:

Oklahoma's Alvin Adams, Utah's Luther Burden Gardner-Webb's John Drew, Hutchinson Junior College's Rudy Jackson, and Arizona's Eric Money and Coniel Norman, and San Francisco State's Robert Taylor.

* * *

"Fly" Williams, Brokaw, Lucas, Russell, Adams, Burden, Money, Taylor and Henry Williams are Juniors.

Sojourner, Rudy Jackson and Norman are sophomores.

Rubin Collins may get NBA offer

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Comets seek 3rd straight tonight

In their debut season, the Baltimore Comets put their 2-0 record on the line tonight (Friday) against last year's North American Soccer League champs, the Philadelphia Atoms.

The Comets, one of eight new entries into the league this season, have startled two veteran NASL teams in their first two games, whipping the Rochester Lancers 2-1 at Memorial Stadium last Friday and taking a last-minute 3-2 game Sunday from the New York Cosmos in N.Y.C.

A crowd at least equaling last week's 7,050 paid attendance is expected for tonight's tilt at the stadium, starting time 8:05.

* * *

The scoring punch for the hot Comets almost has been a one-man job as Pete Silvester, who arrived from England just two weeks ago, has tallied two goals in each game.

But the heart of the Comets are those players somehow connected with Howard University or the previous professional soccer team in Baltimore, the Bays.

These include Lincoln Phillips, goalie with the Comets and the old Bays and coach of the Howard U. team; Winston Earle, defender and former Bays star; and Paul Scurti, a Baltimore product and Bays player.

Also, Keith Aqui, a two-time Howard U. all-American and Bays forward; Alvin Henderson, a student at Howard University Medical School; and Vic Gamaldo, a former Bays star who has played under Lincoln Phillips in D.C.

* * *

Of those, certainly goalie Phillips in his third season of soccer matches at Memorial Stadium has the largest following among the more youthful Comets fans.

His leaping catches and diving saves are often too good to believe.

At the end of last week's victory over Rochester, dozens of 10 to 15 year olds dashed onto the field, and who do you think they swarmed? Yes, Lincoln Phillips. . . . PONEMONE

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AFRO Sports

Morgan inks 2 gridders as 'blue chip' prospects

Larry Smiley and Steve Turpin, two of the most sought after prep footballers in the Commonwealth of Virginia, have signed letters-of-intent to enroll at Morgan State College in the fall.

The Bears' new head football coach, Nathaniel Taylor, announced the signing of Smiley, a 6-3, 215 pound tight end prospect, and Turpin, a 6-4, 200-pounder who plays quarterback and defensive back.

"We are very happy that we were able to get these two guys. Both of them are outstanding 'blue-chippers' who should fit very well into our plans," Taylor said.

Smiley, who played at Highland Springs (Va.) High School, just outside of Richmond, led his high school team to a 9-1 regular season and into the Virginia semi-finals for the state title before Highland Springs was defeated by Lafayette High of Williamsburg. He caught 39 passes for 587 yards and 6 TD's.

According to his coach Al Rinaldi, who also coached Greg Latta, Morgan's graduating tight end, in high school in Newark, N.J., Smiley is an excellent blocker with outstanding quickness and agility. Blessed with great hands and better than average speed, Smiley, Rinaldi says, was highly sought after by such major powers as Virginia Tech, Duke, Purdue and Maryland.

* * *

Turpin, converted to a defensive back as a senior the past season, intercepted 10 passes to lead the Virginia preps, running one of them back 50 yards for a touchdown. Offensively, he began the season at quarterback, and in three games he completed 23 of 31 passes for 397 yards. Switched to the tight end position, where he drew double-coverage, Turpin caught 31 passes for 520 yards and 5 tds.

Lou Anderson, Turpin's prep coach, says, "he's probably the most talented athlete we've ever had here at Maggie Walker High School. So much so, he could play almost any position on the field."

Turpin, a '73 Prep All-America, is also an outstanding punter, having booted the pigskin 45 times last year for an average of 45.6 yards per punt. Like Smiley, before deciding to cast his lot with Morgan State, Turpin sifted through offers from more than fifty colleges, among them were Virginia Tech, West Virginia, Pitt, Duke, Wake Forest, Michigan State, Clemson, and Tennessee.

Both of the new Morgan recruits were among the top 33 players selected to play on the Eastern squad in the Virginia All-Star game in Roanoke on August 2.

MSA scoreboard

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Varsity Baseball
Lake Clifton at Calvert Hall
Southern at Walbrook
Gibbons at Edmondson
Northwestern at Douglass
Loyola at Northern
Poly vs. Mervo at Herring Run
Patterson at Mt. St. Joe
Forest Park at McDonogh
City at Curley
Southwestern at Lutheran
Carver at Gilman
John Carroll vs Dunbar at Clifton Park

JV Baseball
Calvert Hall at Lake Clifton
Edmondson at Gibbons
Northern at Loyola
Douglass vs. N.W. Pimlico
Mt. St. Joe at Patterson
McDonogh vs. Forest Pk. Conoln Field
Curley at City
Mervo at Poly
Southern at Walbrook
Lutheran at Southwestern
Dunbar at Bel Air
Gilman vs. Carver, Druid Hill Park

Track
Carver at Gibbons
St. Joe at Lake Clifton
Poly at Edmondson
Northwestern at Walbrook
Douglass at Northern
Forest Park at Patterson
Mervo at Southwestern
Curley vs. Dunbar at Kirk Field

Varsity Lacrosse
Northwestern at Park
Walbrook at Towson Catholic
Patterson vs. Southern, Swann Park
Southwestern at Northern
Gilman at Poly
Mt. St. Joe at Forest Park
Edmondson at City

MONDAY SCHEDULE

Varsity Baseball
Lake Clifton at Gibbons
Loyola at Edmondson
Northern at Calvert Hall
Poly at U.S. Naval Acad.
Patterson vs. Mervo, Herring Run

JV Baseball
Gibbons at Lake Clifton
Edmondson at Loyola
Calvert Hall at Northern
Poly vs. City at Herring Run
Mervo at Patterson

JV Lacrosse
Northern at Southwestern
Park at Northwestern
City at Edmondson

3-year TV pact inked by Bullets

LANDOVER, Md. — WTOP-Television, Channel 9, will be the new television home for Washington Bullets basketball over the next three years, it has been announced by Abe Pollin, president of the Washington Bullets, and James T. Lynagh, vice president and general manager of WTOP-TV.

The Bullets now join the Buffalo Braves and Houston Rockets as NBA teams with CBS-affiliated stations. Only six NBA teams are associated with network television stations, including the Bullets, Boston Celtics, Buffalo Braves, Houston Rockets, Milwaukee Bucks and Phoenix Suns.

Morgan signs 6-8 prep cager

Eric Evans, a 6-foot-8 prep All-South selection from Clinton, N.C., signed a letter of intent to attend Morgan State College this fall.

Nat Frazier, the Bears' coach, was elated at Evans' decision to enroll at Morgan State. Courted by a number of schools, including North Carolina State, Evans said he chose Morgan because he wanted to attend a small school and preferably a predominantly-black college.

An outstanding outside shooter for his size, Evans averaged 26.8 points a game and 15 rebounds the past season. He was an All-South choice in both his junior and senior year at Clinton High.

The lithe 17-year-old fallied 1,520 points in three years of prep competition.

A center for Clinton, Evans may be used as a forward for the Bears.

Bullets get $3,500 playoff shares

The Washington Bullets divided their playoff pot equally among the 12 players. Each player received $3,500.

Trainer Bill Ford, who joined the team after the season began, received $2,250. Physical therapist Bill Neill was awarded $500 and the players voted to split $250 among the ballboys.

The total for the Bullets' first-place finish in the Central Division and first-round playoff battle with the New York Knicks was $45,000.

Free net clinic slated at Druid

A free tennis clinic at Druid Hill Park will be sponsored by the Junior League of Baltimore, Inc. this summer.

Open to all inner-city boys and girls ages 9 to 13, classes will be held June 24 to Aug. 1, two mornings a week (Mon.-Wed.) or (Tues.-Thurs.). All rackets and balls will be provided. Tennis shoes are the only requirement.

The Junior League, in its endeavor to help Baltimore through money received from its fund raisers, feels that tennis is a sport so beneficial, so prevalent and so enduring it should be learned by everyone. Inner-city children, with their enthusiasm are considered prime cuntds!

Mrs. Louis W. Hargrave is chairman of the clinic at Druid Hill Park and Mrs. Robert E. Michel, Jr. is president of the Junior League of Baltimore, Inc.

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PROMISING RECRUITS Steve Turpin (second from left) and Larry Smiley (extreme right) are welcomed to the Morgan State College campus by two outstanding ex-Bears, Mark Washington (left) and Willie Lanier (second right). Turpin, a 6-4 quarterback, and Smiley a 6-3, end, are both from Richmond. Turpin is a graduate of Maggie Walker High, where Lanier prepped. Smiley played at Highland Springs High School; also in Richmond. Washington now plays with the Dallas Cowboys and Lanier is defensive captain of the Kansas City Chiefs of the National Football League.

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Middleton set for Bonavena

Baltimore's Larry Middleton takes his latest excursion into the upper echelon of heavyweight fighters on May 21, when he tangles with Oscar Bonavena.

The bout was closed Thursday with official signing of contracts by Middleton and Bonavena at Capital Centre. The fight will be held there a week from Tuesday.

* * *

Oscar arrived from his home in Argentina early this week to await confirmation of the 12-round scuffle.

Bonavena has knocked out 39 of his 50 opponents, while Middleton has won 21 of 27 outings, 13 by kayo.

Unseld rehabilitation follows knee surgery

Washington Bullets center Westley Unseld this week began what could be a long period of rehabilitation following the April 25th operation on his left knee.

The stellar Bullets pivotman had cartilage removed from the arthristic knee by team physician Dr. Stanford Lavine at Washington Hospital Center.

* * *

Unseld had been troubled all season by the painful knee and missed 26 games. The knee was rested in a cast three times and he sat out several other games in an effort to ease the problem during the season.

On March 1 he underwent an arthroscopic examination in Toronto by Dr. R. W. Jackson. Drs. Jackson and Lavine examined the knee and determined that further playing would not harm it any more.

* * *

Unseld played the rest of the season and averaged 40 minutes per game. During that stretch in March and April he averaged 13 rebounds per game and outplayed New York's Dave DeBusschere in the NBA playoffs, in which the Bullets were eliminated in seven games by the defending world champion Knicks.

Unself remained in the Washington Hospital Center until last Sunday.

He has been doing isometric exercises since the day after the operation and will continue to do so during the six to eight-week period in which the knee will be immobilized.

* * *

It is expected that Unseld will begin to work out about June 12 at Baltimore's Kernan Hospital. Ironically, Unseld is a member of the Board of Directors at Kernan.

The 6-foot-7, 245-pound four-time All-Star was the Bullets' No. 1 draft choice in 1968 after being a three-time All-American at the University of Louisville.

He was the NBA's most valuable player and rookie of the year in 1969, a year in which the Bullets emerged from last place the previous year to the NBA's best record.

Health service to honor volunteers

Volunteer recognition and appreciation day will be held during National Hospital Week, May 12-18 at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital.

A ceremony honoring volunteers will be held on May 14 at 1 p.m. in the Officer's Club.

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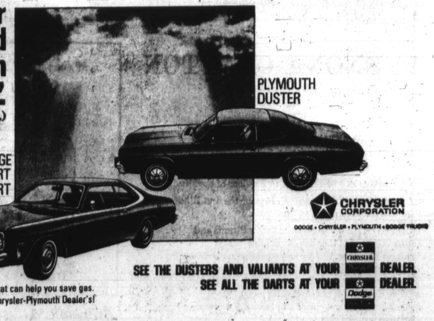

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