Va. Union's Tom Harris

Heart attack fatal to coach

By John W. Templeton

RICHMOND — When Harlow Fullwood saw Virginia Union University coach Tom Harris stricken with a heart attack in the Norfolk Scope Saturday, "I just left, I couldn't handle it."

"I had just sat there talking with him about 15 minutes before the game and was asking him about his health," recalled Fullwood.

"He said, 'I feel the best I've felt in a long time and if I'm going to leave here, I want to leave here serving Union.'"

Harris was stricken with 16 minutes left in the second half of the women's CIAA championship game as his Panthereettes had just taken a one point lead after trailing by eight at halftime. After 45 minutes of cardio - pulmonary resuscitation, he was taken to Norfolk General Hospital where he died. His team went on to win its second straight championship 61 - 60.

A coach for all seasons, Harris' death saddened an extended family of hundreds of athletes and students whom he shaped and molded as a teacher, coach and father during 31 years at Virginia Union as coach of football, basketball, women's basketball, golf and track.

Two days later, Johnson C. Smith basketball coach Robert "Bobby" Moore was still shaken by the death of Harris. Moore played along with Fullwood on Harris' unbeaten 1959 football team and later replaced Harris as Union's basketball coach.

"He had come into our locker room at halftime of the game against Hampton (in Friday night's semi - final) to tell me about some adjustments that we needed to make and I was going to talk with him some more after his game," said Moore.

"When my mother and I were coming into the Scope, we saw the ambulance leaving," Moore recalled. He was told about the heart attack upon entering the building.

In one of his last news interviews, Harris told the AFRO about a secret defense he had been using with his women's team. The alignment has some man - to - man principles and some zone principles, but is constantly disguised to keep opposing teams off balance.

Harris said jokingly, "I got it from a coach who's dead and hadn't told anyone else, and I haven't given it to any one else either."

Moore said, "He called me last month and gave me that defense in principle, but there were some things I didn't understand, so that's what we were going to go over at the tournament."

"That Man was a genius"

"He was the greatest innovator I've ever known," said Willard Bailey, now Union's athletic director. Bailey joined Harris as his football assistant in 1965 and succeeded him as head football coach in 1972. coach in 1972.

"He could stretch a dollar as far as it could be stretched and there were games I've seen him been defeated because of insufficent numbers and lack of depth, but the people we have had were quality players," added Bailey.

"For him, athletics was a teaching mechanism, more than the three Rs, but the big L — teaching people how to live," said Dr. David Shannon, VUU president. "He became a living legend because many of the people he taught in the 50s, their children are now here. He taught me track and he was teaching my daughter track."

Fullwood, now a decorated police agent in Baltimore, president of the Baltimore chapter of alumni and a VUU trustee, said he owes just about all his success in life to a decision Harris forced on him back in his freshman year in 1959.

"When I entered Union in 1959, I cried," said Fullwood. "I could have looked at the physical plant and thought about all the schools I could have gone to like Minnesota. I talked to Harris and he said there's more to this place than the buildings."

A week later, Fullwood had had enough. He threw his helmet off in practice and started to walk off the field Harris stopped him, saying, "Son, where you come from, the only thing you can do is wash dishes or scrub floors.

"You're big, strong, fast and intelligent, but you're missing one thing — you don't have a strong commitment to work. If you stay, I will work with you personally, before practice and after practice. The decision you make today will affect you for the rest of your life".

Fullwood stayed, for four years, long enough to become an All - American, All - CIAA and to be drafted by both the American and National Football League.

"Just about everything I have I attribute to that decision he helped me make that day," says Fullwood.

"The man was a genius, added the alumnus. "He could get more out of men and women than anybody I know.

"Just before his last game, I noticed that he was only suiting up seven girls. I said, 'Coach, what are you going to do with just seven girls.'"

"He said, didn't I teach you anything. It's not the numbers, it's the quality. You only need five players to play this game."

Bailey summed up Harris' success with players: "His secret was in getting the person to identify more with what they wanted out of life. If the youngster was willing to pay the price, they would be the recipient. He forced a youngster to make a decision. He did not allow a youngster to be lukewarm."

Bob Moore is another who owes his success to "Tricky Tom." "When I wrote him in 1958, asking to play football, I only weighed 165 pounds soaking wet, but he took me in," said Moore.

"He taught me that you didn't have to have all the great facilities and all that," Moore added. "He never had an inferiority complex playing the Morgans or the A&Ts."

"He was 2 - 8 the year before we came, but he added on to his schedule." That teams, with Moore and Fullwood among the eight freshman starters, went undefeated.

Moore tells how Harris' inventive mind earned him the nickname of "Tricky Tom."

"He always had a gimmick play — a play just out of thin air. They never knew what "Tricky" was going to do."

"I never will forget, just before homecoming game against Morgan, the day before, Coach had us come out in our street clothes to run this play where (Napoleon) Barboza took the snap, pitched back to me then I pitched back to Barboza and then to Jones Davis."

"The next day, somebody came in the huddle and said, coach run the play we practiced yester day. Barboza said on two. We didn't even have a name for the play. But Davis took it and went 75 yards to the one and we scored the next play and won 21 - 19."

In his junior year, Moore was convinced to go out for basketball by Harris. That's when he really saw Harris' greatness. "I used to watch him hold football practice until 6 p.m., then go home to eat and then come back at 6:30 p.m. to run basketball practice and he never complained and he never missed a practice."

"We used to ride in two station wagons and stop by the side of the road and pick up some balogna and orange juice. I know driving those wagons from Carolina to Pennsyvania must have gotten to him."

"That's what Union prepares you for." Moore quotes Harris. "If you can survive here, you can survive anywhere."

Fullwood remembers, "he never complained about salary. I'm just trying to make a contribution, he said. He put loyalty to his players, his family and his university before himself."

Dr. Shannon used the words of Mrs. Harris to express his feelings: "She said it was like the end of a story that he could be stricken at the CIAA with his young ladies. If you had to go, that was the way to do it."

DENIES 'FRISCO CHARGES — Former Project Survival scholarship winner and now among nation's most outstanding college basketers Quintin Dailey (R) has denied allegations he sexually attacked a 21-year-old woman in a University of San Francisco dormitory last week. Dailey, 25th leading collegiate scorer in the country, is former Baltimore high school star. He's shown with lawyer, George Walker.

HAPPY MVP!! — A gleeful Marcia Richardson leaps into the arms of her Maryland teammates after being named co-MVP in the Atlantic Coast Conference women's basketball tournament at Raleigh (NC). Marcia scored 22 points in leading the Lady Terps to a 93-81 victory over Clemson in the final.

College scores

BASKETBALL

Hampton 72, Radford 56
Hampton 91, Cabrini (PA) 44
Liberty Bapt. 81, Lincoln 63
Liberty Bapt. 68, Norfolk St. 66
Hampton 48, Liberty Bapt. 42
Penn State 102, UDC 68 (women)
Cheyney St. 58, UMBC 45
J.C. Smith 81, Belmont Abbey 73
Paul Quinn 101, Texas Wesleyan 96
Cheyney St. 75, UDC 50 (women)
Catawba 85, J. C. Smith 76
Wright St. 90, Ky. State 81

Floyd, Sampson on All-America

University of Virginia center Ralph Sampson is the only repeater from last year on the 11 - man All - America team announced today by the United States Basketball Writers Association.

North Carolina is the only team to have two members, James Worthy and Sam Perkins, named to the squad.

Other members of the team are Terry Cummings of DePaul, Kevin Magee of California Irvine, Dale Ellis of Tennessee, Ricky Pierce of Rice, Eric Floyd of Georgetown, Paul Pressey of Tulsa and Bill Garnett of Wyoming.

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Parker, Burke to be honored

Plans to honor former football all - pro Jim Parker at an April 14 testimonial, were solidified Thursday at a press luncheon at the Convention Center.

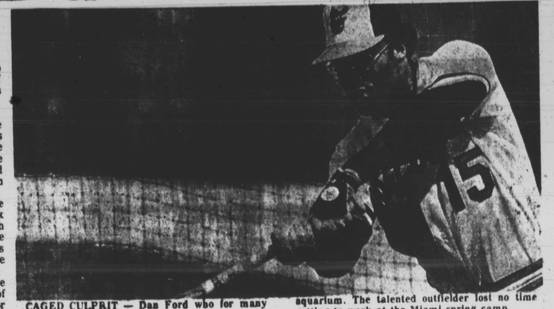
The affair, to be held at Martin's West, will be the fourth in a series of "Evening With" dinners sponsored by and for the Project Survival Youth program under direction of the Urban Services Agency.

Parker, a star guard - tackle who anchored the offensive line in the halcyon championship days of the Baltimore Colts, was introduced to a large gathering of media representatives as the main honoree.

To be saluted at the same April 14 affair is Allen "Dickie" Burke who was a collegiate standout in football and basketball at Morgan State (College).

More recently, Burke has been active in work among inner - city youth in his job with the Community Relations Division of the Baltimore Police Department.

Both Parker and Burke were presented tokens of appreciation from Mayor Schaefer at the Convention Center luncheon.



CAGED CULPRIT — Dan Ford who for many years was a Baltimore nemesis while with the California Angels, is now a member of the Orioles' aquarium. The talented outfielder lost no time getting to work at the Miami spring camp.

Morgan gals in IC4-A meet

Coach Leonard Braxton and his Morgan State women's track team are back on the scene of past triumps this weekend in Princeton, NJ.

The Lady Bears, who have scored impressively in visits in each of the past five years, are entered in the IC4-A indoor championships, scheduled Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to crack senior sprinter Maria Parson, Braxton has four other Maryland youngsters on his squad.

They are twins Michelle and Marcell Gooding of Seat Pleasant, Pam Darien and Janet Dodson of Baltimore. Parsons also is a Baltimorean.

The Goodings and Darien are frosh half-milers. And Dodson, a sophomore, is a sprinter, as is the veteran Parsons who won the 100 and 200 - meter titles in 1980.

UDC ranked

University of District of Columbia has been ranked third among basketball teams of the NCAA's Division II.

Other black college teams in the final 20 ratings are Cheyney (PA) State, first; Virginia State, 15th, and Central (OH) State, 19th.

Peete, Dent score first

Marking the first time ever that two blacks finished among the top of a pro golf tournament, Calvin Peete and Jim Dent collected nearly $20,000 last weekend in the Doral Open in Florida.

Peete tied for fifth place with a 281 score for 72 holes and cashed $10, 980. Dent's 282 was worth $9,000 and an eighth place tie.

The tournament was won by Andy Bean.

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The purses enabled both to improve their positions on the year's list of 100 top money winners.

Calvin with $24,698 for 1982, is in 23rd place. Dent's earnings of $15,498 puts him 47th on the list.

Firebirds, Panthers in Baltimore

The University of District of Columbia, Virginia Union and Virginia State will have their basketball teams in the NCAA Division II regional tournament at Mt. St. Mary's College this weekend.

The Mounts are hosting the South Atlantic playoffs in their Emmittsburg (MD) gym beginning Friday.

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UDC's Firebirds will meet the Panthers in the opening game, and the Virginia State Trojans will take on Mt. St. Mary's in the second encounter.

UDC's record is 20 - 5; Union's is 18 - 8; State's is 18 - 8; and St. Mary's is 19 - 7.

Lady Bears eye EAIAW regional

Morgan State women neared the close of their basketball season with victories over University of Delaware 65-71, Southeastern 97-36, and Rutger - Camden 91-72.

Junior center Jackie Crudup and freshman guard Loretta Pachel scored 81 and 57 points, respectively, in a 4-0 week for the Morgan gals. Towson State was the fourth victim 76-50.

Crudup also had 55 rebounds in the four games, Angela Davis followed with 42 rebounds.

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Important contests with the Naval Academy, George Washington and West Chester State stand between the Lady Bears and their fourth consecutive trip to the EAIAW Region 1 Championships.

O's cagers unbeaten

The Orioles' 1981-82 basketball team concluded play last month with a perfect 26-0 record, but it didn't come easy.

The Birds were forced into overtime last Friday night at Frederick High School before coming away with a 104-102 victory.

Tim Stoddard, the club's leading scorer this season with a better than 20-point per game average, contributed a season high 53 points, or better than half the club's total.

Players that participated in most of the games this season were Al Bumbry, Mark Corey, Terry Crowley, Rich Dauer, Mike Flanagan, Dan Graham, Scott McGregor, Eddie Murray, Jim Palmer, and Stoddard. Coached by Tom Jasper, the O's raised over $30,000 for various charities.

Assault charged to two

NORMAN, OK (UPI) — Police have arrested David Overstreet, one of two former University of Oklahoma football stars accused of raping a college student while in town for a charity fundraiser, authorities said.

The other player, Gregory Roberts surrendered Thursday.

Overstreet, a running back for the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League, was arrested at a Norman residence and booked into the Cleveland County Jail on a charge of first - degree rape, Police Capt. Dave Boyett said.

Roberts, a guard with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, was charged in connection with the same alleged sexual assault.

The American Revolutionary victory at Stony Point, a village on the Hudson in New York State, was made possible by a Black intelligence agent named Pompey.

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