BARRY COOPER

From Page 5

racism but a small versus big mentality. We now live in an era where -- in everything except cars -- big is best.

If Everson Walls had played at Notre Dame instead of Grambling, he would have been a first-round NFL draft choice. Not because Notre Dame is predominantly white and Grambling is predominantly black, but because Notre Dame is big and Grambling is considered small.

If Doug Williams had set his passing records at the University of Southern California, he would have won the Heisman Trophy. Again -- not so much racism as a case of what is perceived as big-time versus small-time.

After all, we don't hear of any players from small, predominantly white schools being mentioned for the Heisman, either.

It is easy to use that handy crutch, racism, for all that seems unfair in black college athletics. The fact of the matter is that the dream that many historically black schools had of one day competing alongside the Notre Dames and Southern Californias has faded into the harsh world of reality.

That day will never come -- not as long as the big, predominantly white schools are getting all the top talent.

That is sad.

It also is the way it is.

THE YEAR OF THE QUARTERBACK

From Page 15

he says. "They know that I play to win and someone has to get the credit.

"I'm a team player and I realize it takes a total team effort to win a game."

And, while many quarterbacks aren't very eager to run head-long into opposing defenses, Fraylon isn't afraid to be tackled by huge linemen or linebackers, nor is he reluctant to talk a little junk in the process.

As a matter of fact, Fraylon may be as well-known for his tendency to point his finger at opponents and utter insults across the line of scrimmage as he is for scoring touchdowns.

"Sometimes I talk a little junk to the other team," he says with a sheepish grin. "That helps get me into my game. It makes me work that much harder."

However, it also invites cheap shots and hits after the whistle from guys whose mouths might not be bigger than Fraylon's, but whose bodies certainly are.

"It makes me watch what's going on all the time," Fraylon says. "I've taken a lot of late hits, but usually I warn the officials if I think a player is really trying to do something to hurt me."

Unlike many college athletes, Fraylon likes to assume the responsibility for winning close games. Although opposing coaches and players know that he normally calls his own number in crucial situations, they're still hard-pressed to stop him.

"I thrive on pressure," he says. "Pressure is part of the game and, if you can't deal with it, you're going to mess up. I feel that I'm always up to the challenge, whatever it might be."

But then, isn't that what separates exceptional athletes from average ones?

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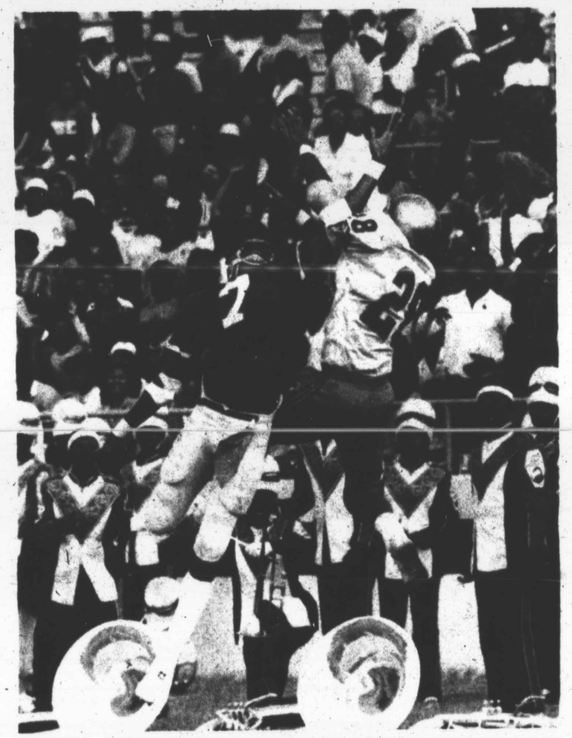

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