THE CREAM OF THE CROP

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rushing, total offense and rushing attempts (310). Johnson averaged 119 yards per game to rank third in Division II and gained 100 yards or more in 10 of 11 games.

"He's the strongest player on the team," says Norfolk State Sports Information Director Kenny Snelling. "He's a dedicated weightlifter. The size of his arms is similar to a 6-8, 290-pound guy. His arms are out of proportion with the rest of his body. He's like Popeye."

Johnson was all-CIAA and was voted the CIAA Player of the Year by sportswriters.

"I like him," says Brandt. "He has a lot of ability."

Calvin Magee, tight end, 6-4, 227, Southern: In 10 games in 1984, Magee caught 50 passes for 670 yards and seven touchdowns. He averaged 13.4 yards per reception, and his longest catch was 41 yards.

Magee was first-team all-SWAC, first-team all-Louisiana (for all schools in the state on any level) and Division I-AA all-America honorable mention. He has been called "the best pro prospect at tight end in Louisiana" by one Baton Rouge sportswriter.

Magee was picked by Portland in the USFL's territorial draft. "I'm not sure what I'm going to do," he says, on which league he'll select. "Once I talk to the USFL, I'll decide."

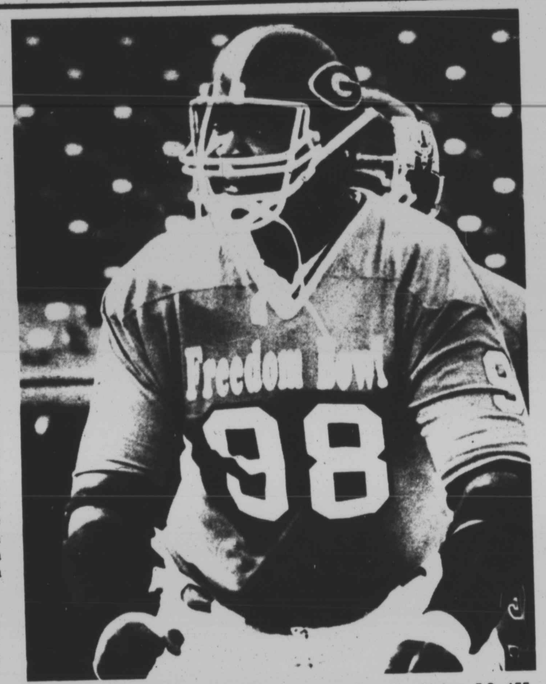
"He's a good player," Brandt says, "and has the ability to be an NFL player."

Franz Kappel, offensive lineman, 6-3, 260, Delaware State: In '84, Kappel was an Associated Press Division I-AA second-team all-America and first-team Black College Sports Inc. all-America. Kappel was also all-MEAC. He can bench-press 540 pounds, and he is the main reason Delaware State was tops on rushing in Division I-AA.

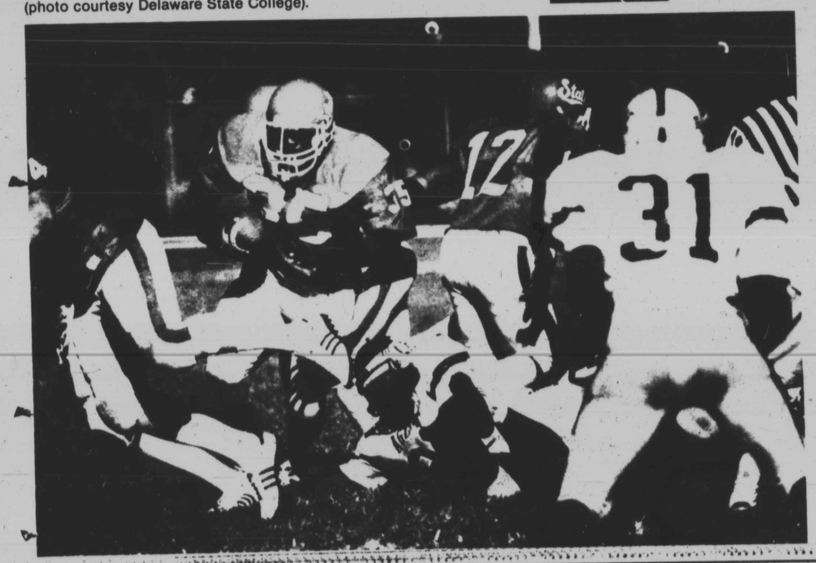
Ernest Hines, offensive lineman, 6-7, 265, Norfolk State: "He was the most respected lineman in the conference," says SID Snelling. "Our rushing offense was in the top 19 in the country because of Hines."

Says Brandt: "He's a real big guy. He's strong and fast. Those guys can make it."

Johnoson Crutchfield, offensive lineman, 6-3, 260, South Carolina State: Crutchfield was all-MEAC two consecutive seasons and was a preseason small-college all-America pick by *The Sporting News* in '84. He was an all-MEAC honorable mention choice his sophomore season and a Black College Sports Inc. all-America choice in '84.



Left, massive James Polk of Grambling: A middle-round draft pick (photo by James Parker)? Below, Delaware State's Gene Lake: At 26, he apparently figures another year in school would be precious time lost (photo courtesy Delaware State College).



Jorge Rosales, kicker, 5-8, 155, Grambling: Rosales has a range of up to 40 yards, which is limited for the pros. In '84, he made eight of 11 field goal attempts and kicked 32 of 34 extra points for 56 points.

Gene Lake, running back, 5-11, 215, Delaware State: Lake gained 1,722 yards in '84, tops on any collegiate level. He carried the ball 238 times for a 7.2-yard average, rushing for 172.2 yards per game and scoring 20 touchdowns.

Lake, who was drafted by the USFL's New Jersey Generals in the second round, is expected to join the league if presented a good offer, rather than return for his senior season. Called "pretty good" by Brandt, Lake is 26 years old and a U.S. Army veteran. So, it would be to his advantage to seek a job in the pros.

Plus, Delaware State, 8-2 in '84, loses its entire offensive line and Head Coach Joe Purzycki, who left for James Madison.

Gregory D. Clay is a sports copy editor for the Wichita (Kan.) Eagle-Beacon. *He received assistance on this article from Staff Writer Sam Davis.*

BLACK COLLEGE REPORT

It's no picnic on the road, say coaches

By SAM DAVIS
Review Staff Writer

Taking your team on the road in black college basketball is no easy task.

And while there may not be the equivalent of, say, Duke University in terms of heckling and other distracting fan behavior -- profane, creative or otherwise -- in black college basketball, rest assured that there still are scores of places black college coaches would rather avoid.

It's no picnic to wage war on foreign basketball courts in any league and each conference, and team, for that matter, seems to have its own set of concrete and mortar nemeses.

In the CIAA, Brayboy Gym on the campus of Johnson C. Smith is probably the most notorious place for a visiting team to play.

"They'll put a pep band in there with a bunch of tubas playing and you can't hear anything," says Winston-Salem State Coach C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines, who has done his share of traveling in 39 years at the helm. "It's usually crowded in there, and, with the band playing, it gets on your nerves to the point that you can't think about basketball."

"Alabama State is probably the place that I feel is the most difficult gym for us to play in. The fans are sitting right on top of you."

-- Tennessee State's Ed Myer

Another toughie for CIAA teams, including the Rams, is Spaulding Gym at Shaw University.

"It's known as the 'Dark House'," says Gaines, college basketball's winningest active coach. "The lighting there is very poor. Not only that, but the rims are bent and they crowd a lot of people into the place. They only have about five rows of seats on each side, but it seems like they can put 2,000 people in there."

On the other hand, North Carolina A&T Coach Don Corbett, whose team competes in the MEAC, says there are no particular gyms in his conference that cause more problems than others.

"All the places we play are just fan-oriented," says Corbett. "The fans just want to see their home team win. There's no heckling on black campuses. I don't really see the negative or hostile fans like there are at other schools."

Corbett says the fans at black schools are unique in that respect.

"It's just a continuation of tradition," says Corbett. "When you play a team on their court you can expect their fans to be supportive. The fans, cheerleaders and band are going to be geared up."

Tennessee State Coach Edward Myer, who faces an independent schedule that involves long road trips, disagrees. Myer says there are at least three gyms he especially tries to shun.

"Alabama State is probably the place that I feel is the most difficult gym for us to play in," says Myer. "The fans are sitting right on top of you, the lighting is terrible and the crowds are really rowdy. But what makes it hard on your players is that, when your team gets out on a fast break, they might run into the walls, which are right at both ends of the court.

"The gym at Grambling leaves something to remember, too," says Myer. "They play in a small high school gym and, when they put a big crowd in there, it's real tough for us."

Myer says he also doesn't look forward to his team's tangles with Tuskegee.

"They have a balcony that protrudes over the the court," he says. "They used to have a theatre or something there. It's really distracting for the players."

Alcorn State Coach Dave Whitney says there is only one gym that his team has a difficult time playing in.

"Mississippi Valley is a real tough place for us," says Whitney, whose team has dominated the SWAC in recent years. "The fans there are real boisterous, but that's the way you're supposed to be on your home court.

"Everytime we go there, we know they are going to give us a hard time," Whitney says of Valley, which is less than 100 miles from Alcorn. "The crowd is so close to the court that it seems like everyone is screaming in your face."

While Whitney says no other arenas in the SWAC can compare to Mississippi Valley's, he feels it is equally tough for opposing teams to play on his home court at Alcorn.

"We've got a tremendous crowd here ourselves," Whitney says. "They are fired up every game and it's difficult for any team to come in and play us."

Alcorn State's Davey Whitney: He especially dreads trips to Mississippi Valley (photo by Mark Gail).

Albany State Coach Oliver Jones says his team also experiences problems facing neighboring schools away from home. Most difficult for Jones and Albany are Savannah State and Fort Valley State, which are nearby.

"The noise level is extremely loud at Savannah State," says Jones. "You're really in for it when you go into their gym. It's very hard to keep your players' minds on basketball.

"The same is true at Fort Valley," he says. "Both of their gyms are real small and it seems they're packed everytime they play."

Jones says he rates Savannah State as a more difficult gym than Fort Valley.

"If Fort Valley's team is 10 points behind, the noise level isn't there," Jones says. "But Savannah State can be 10 or 15 points behind and their fans will still be noisy.

"There's a unique type of fan at Savannah State," says Jones. "They're real knowledgeable about the game. If an opposing player makes a good play they'll give him a good ovation. But if one of their players makes a real good play, they'll go on and on for four or five minutes."