SHINING STAR

Miriam juggles academics, athletics, marriage

Miriam Walker-Samuels of Claflin Kenneth Samuels feels the same way. than a soulmate. He is also her court men-It's no big deal to her. It's the way she basketball and I know what's involved. The "But being married gives me direction in wants it. Neither she nor husband Kenneth travel gets hectic from time to time, but we what I want to do and what I need to do."

What Samuels works with his wife on College is a young lady who juggles school, "It's not difficult for us," he explained. "I tor. "Before I got married I used to sit are some slight nuances in her game that basketball and marriage in a manner that have a busy schedule too (as an admissions around the dorm with my friends and just will help her stay one or two levels above enables her to lead a full and satisfying life. counselor and recruiter at Claflin). I played shoot the breeze," Walker-Samuels recalled. any other women she's likely to face on the court. "Some of the things I do is get her to alter some of her moves, he said. "Everybody in the NAIA has watched films of her and they study those, trying to find ways to stop her. She can get around me at times. If I back off just a little bit, she can get her shot off on me. I have more quickness than anyone she'll play against, so she knows that she can get around and shoot over opposing women anytime she wants to."

> Walker-Samuels didn't take the direct route to Classin. If the big schools would've had their way, she'd be somewhere in the SEC, ACC, or PAC-10. As a prepster at Central Talbotton High School in Georgia, Walker-Samuels was voted the state's those kinds of credentials, every major school stayed in touch.

However, the sharpshooter wasn't interested in prime-time. Talbotton, Ga. is a

return home. Larry Emmons, MTSU coach at the time, told her from day one that she wouldn't get any playing time. That wasn't good news and to add more to it, she didn't feel comfortable with the predominantly white campus at MTSU. In a way, the change was a form of culture shock for Walker-Samuels. Central Talbotton High is predominantly black.

Two months later, Samuels found out from Classin coach Nelson Brownlee that Classin needed a point guard. During the interim, Samuels' job as a sales representative took him to Talbotton. Always an active type, he played pick-up basketball games at the park and eventually met Miriam in the process. During that time, a romance blossomed and he learned of what had transpired at Middle Tennessee.

Walker-Samuels was ready to attend Ft. Valley State. But Samuels convinced her witnessed a Walker-Samuels demonstration, he didn't believe what he was seeing.

"She went one-on-one against one our watched her hit seven straight three-pointmy office. Then I found out that before she missed, she had hit 14 in a row."

In two seasons, Brownlee has conclud-

-Craig T. Greenlee

schedule as wife, student and her game on the court is spectacular. This ace shooter s clearly more comfortable in a smaller environment. Claflin's student population is 750, which is in the same range as Central Talbotton High School in her native Geor-

view that as anything out of the ordinary.

Maybe most folk would see it that way if Miriam wasn't who she is. Walker-Samuels just may be the best college bas- sharp as they come. In her two years at pean League as a post-graduate. ketball player in the country today. The fact Claflin, the school has made the finals of involved in the hoopla surrounding major time period. league college sports.

As a freshman, she was named MVP of "It's hasn't been hard on me," said the the NAIA Tournament. That same year, she 22-year old Walker-Samuels who tied the set a new NAIA single game scoring record knot last September. "I have time to do the by tallying a mystifying 62 points against her already considerable skills. "We go to a prolific scorer. "She has that ability to put things I want. And besides, all of the activi- Dillard University in the playoffs. In April, the park and play as a team against other the ball in the basket," the coach said. "But ty keeps my mind occupied. My husband she was voted the College Division Player of people," she said. "And we also play she also has a great desire to win. When it has been very supportive of my playing. the Year by the Black College Sports Infor- against each other a lot. Kemneth's a good comes to winning -- that's first with her. On We're always together and he comes to all mation Directors' Association.

As Miriam's husband, Kenneth is more

handle it. Other than that, we're just every-

Walker-Samuels' primary goal is to get her degree in physical education then ply to visit Classin. The first time Brownlee her hardwood skills in the women's Euro-The 5-6 sophomore point guard is as

that she doesn't play at the Division I level the NAIA playoffs. Each season Walker- perform the normal household chores, with better players," Brownlee recollected. "I is of no consequence. It's just that she want- Samuels has averaged better than 33 points some alterations here and there, depending ed to go to a small school and not be a game and her squad is 72-3 during that on whether it's basketball season or not. ers. That scared me so I left to go back to They'll split the cooking duties or eat out, and they share the other domestic duties.

But there's also time to play some oneon-one which helps Miriam further refine ed that Walker-Samuels is much more than player and he's tough. I can't beat him. But the court, she's all business." I'm working on it."

Like other married folk, the Samuels

MILLER LITE CONFERENCE UPDATE

Brought to you by Miller Lite. The proud sponsor of the CIAA, MEAC, and SWAC conferences.

exercises have been conducted. But while schools are out, black college athletics continue to feature outstanding performances in track, baseball, golf, and tennis. Here's a brief rundown on recent happenings.

SWAC - Jackson State trounced Grambling 18-4 to win the conference baseball championship which was held in Natchez, Miss. It was JSU's fourth title. Tiger players earning all-tournament berths were: Ron Lockett, Anthony Brown, Johnny Edwards, Leon Byrd, Michael Farmer, and Andrew Hill.

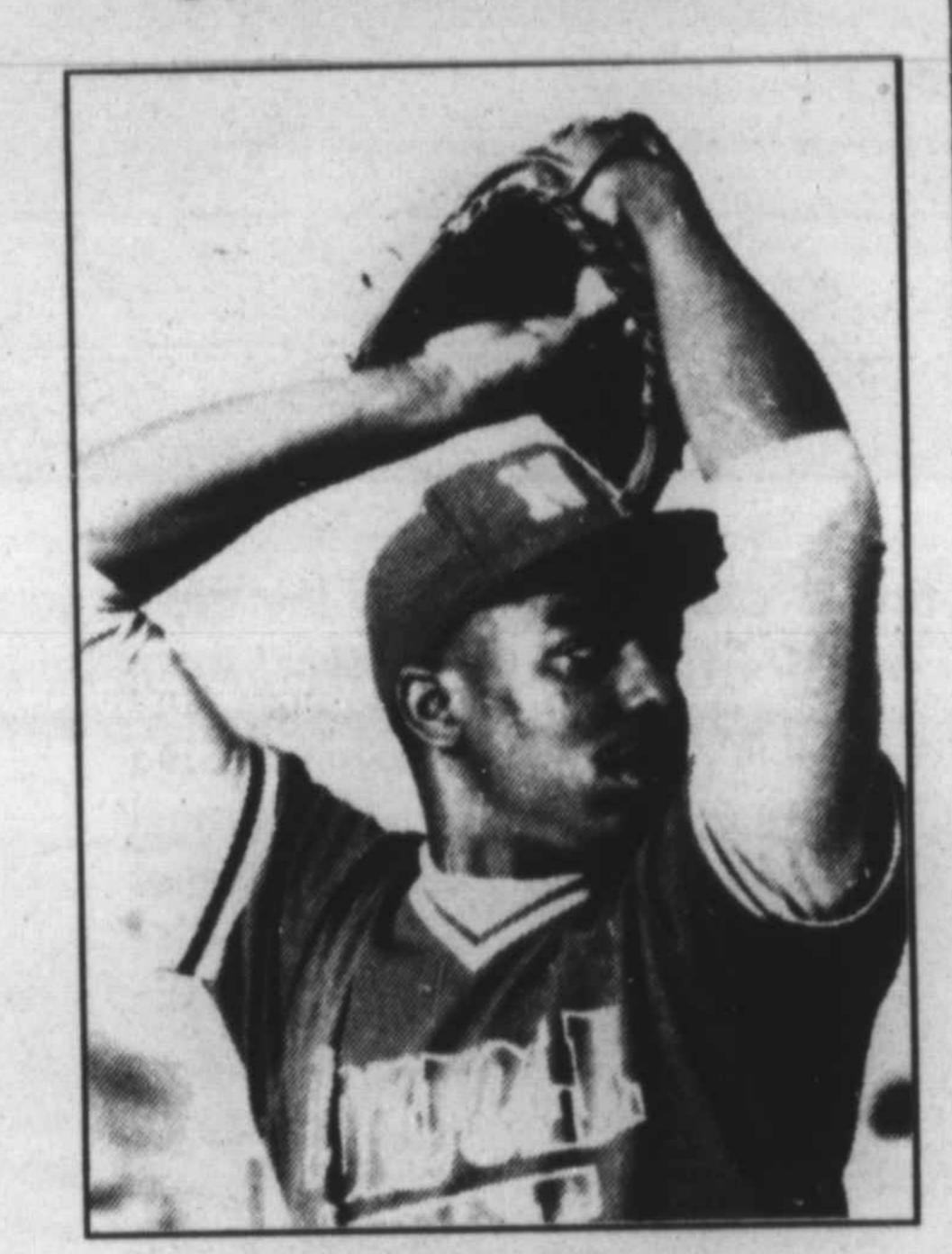
CIAA - The conference continued to enjoy its banner year as member schools won national titles in track, tennis, and golf. Livingstone College won the National Minority College Golf Championships after trailing by four strokes on the

dominance by winning the men's Division II outdoor title. Hampton's Pirates were awesome in their performances at the national tennis championships. They rolled over all

foes and won the crown without having to play any doubles matches. MEAC - The Howard University Bison were hitting full stride in track and field with several performers headed to

the Division I championships in Provo, Utah. Hurdler John Branch qualified in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles. Branch is the conference champion in both the 110-meter high hurdles and the intermediates. Others vying for possible national honors are Curtis Chappell in the open 400 and Michelle Felder, who will also compete in the women's 400.

Lite Beer Athlete of The Month.



Washington Wilkerson

Black College Sports Review is proud to announce that Norfolk State junior pitcher Washington Wilkerson has been selected as Miller Lite's Black College Athlete Of The Month.

Wilkerson was the Spartans primetime moundsman in '89, recording sevenwins against two losses. It was Wilkerson's pitching that enabled NSU to win their third straight CIAA baseball crown and their first ever berth in the NCAA Division

The 6-3, 190 lbs. Richmond, Va. native has been the team's "stopper" all year. He didn't log as many innings as other pitchers around the nation. But during his stints, he proved to be very effective. In 60 innings, "Wash" fanned 61 batters while issuing just 27 walks. He gave up only two home runs and sported a nifty 1.95 ERA.

Wilkerson is regarded as a tough performer in clutch situations. His consistency on the mound is what has made him one of the better pitchers in college baseball this year. He has an outstanding fast ball, and a better than average curve.

The Spartans have relied on Wilkerson to come through against the toughest opposition and he has always responded.

Miller Lite honorsWashington Wilkerson as the Black College Athlete Of The

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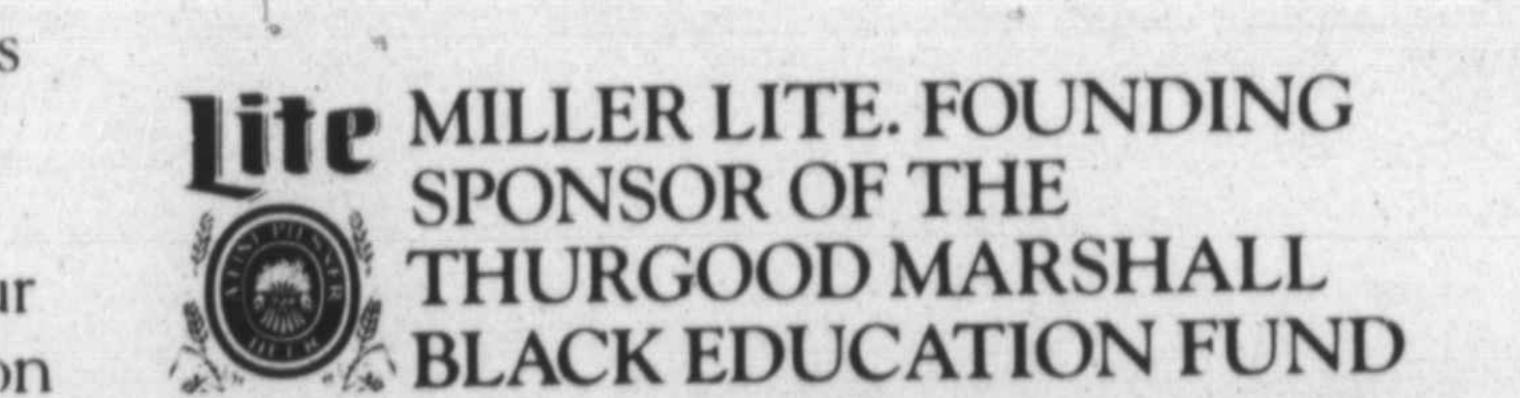
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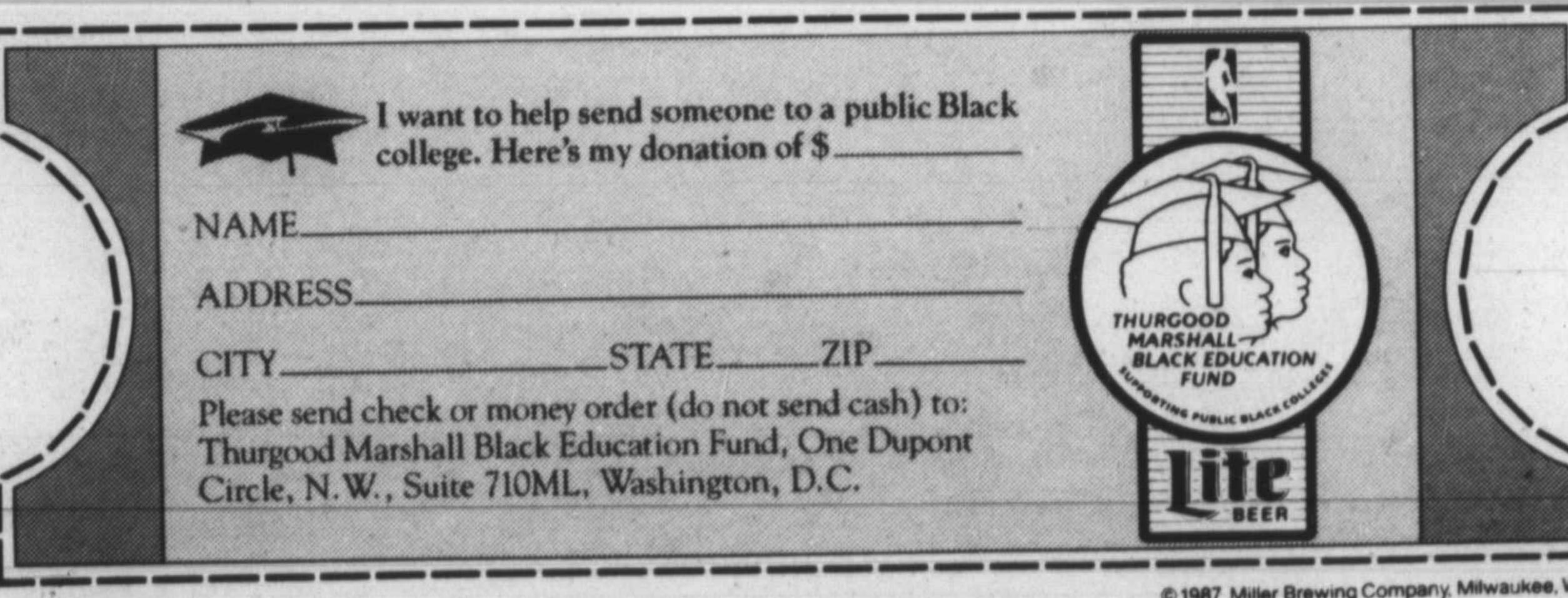
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the games."