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'Bad Boy' Mahorn gets the royal boot



Photo by The Magnificent Eye

Mahorn's brutish reputation follows him to Minnesota. The Minneapolis press has already labeled him as "The Big, Bad Wolf."

The NBA championship party was over before it started for Rick Mahorn.

Only two days after the Detroit Pistons swept the injury devastated Lakers for their first ever league title, big Rick discovered that his former employers were shipping him to a rookie team, the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The suddenness of Mahorn's removal didn't sit well with the former Hampton University performer. He bolted from the festivities faster than a light switch going off.

The 6-10, 260 Mahorn gave the Pistons what they have never had -- a tough guy who could bang in the paint and be the enforcer that teams need to win championships.

According to the folks in the Detroit media, Mahorn was simply caught in an odd situation. League rules only allowed teams to protect eight of their 12 players from being taken in expansion draft for factory new type teams like Minnesota and the Orlando Magic.

After all, it wasn't likely that the Pistons would let Vinnie "Microwave" Johnson get away, and certainly they decided they wouldn't part with back-up pivotman James Edwards, who is the team's only true low post

Some say that Mahorn became expendable because of "chronic" back problems. That's odd. Since being in Motown, the only time Mahorn really missed a lot of time because of the back was during the '87-'88 season when the Pistons took the Lakers to a seventh game before losing.

Let's not forget that Mahorn was voted Detroit's MVP by his own teammates that

Oh sure, I'm not particular about Mahorn's World Wrestling Federation style of play. He knows how to utilize his considerable bulk. It's an art form be picked up from Wes Unseld. But deeper still, he has become skilled at getting to opponents' heads. This guy has a way of rubbing folks the wrong

Yeah -- there have been some elbows thrown that produced shock waves to those who found themselves in the way. You can say what you want, but when Mahorn created the "Bad Boys" image, it gave the Pistons and the city of Detroit the kind of much needed lift they haven't felt for many moons when it comes to that town's sports teams.

No doubt, the Pistons wouldn't have gotten as far as they did without Mahorn. He's the kind of guy that fans or opponents don't care for. But when he's on your team, you don't mind it at all.

It will be interesting to discover if the Pistons can remain a complete team without their prime enforcer and earth shaker to stir folks minds and bodies.

They're going to need some beefy meanness considering the tough competition they'll face in the NBA's Central Division.

Well, Rick, at least you got your ring. They can't take that from you.

-Craig T. Greenlee

Coach Tyler gets her share of the elite athletes

Lady Bison is a good idea. academic difficulties.

Lady Bison coach Sanya Tyler.

American by Parade Magazine.

she signed highly regarded Annette Babers

of Saginaw High School (Mich.). Babers

was one of the most sought after women

athletes coming out of the prep ranks this

past season. She was voted first team All-

new for Tyler. In '87, she landed the ser-

Signing the blue chip athlete is nothing

coach Sanya Tyler continues to persuade team Parade All-American that season. offs. top of the line athletes that playing for the Wilkins sat out the '88 season because of

Tyler, whose team won this year's However, she paid big dividends for happened since '83 and no Division I black State MEAC women's basketball title recently HU in '89 in leading her team to the conferadded another blue chipper to the fold when ence title, scoring 24 points in the finals and at-large bid.

Howard University women's basketball vices of Karen Wilkins who was a fourth season bids for the NCAA Division I play-

Neither the SWAC or the MEAC get automatic berths to the playoffs. That hasn't coffege women's team has ever landed an

The Lady Bison coach feels that can be changed teams upgrade their schedules against credible opposition. This past season, she did more than pay lip service to the idea by facing some of the toughest women's teams around.

Here's a sampling of the "name" schools that the Lady Bison faced during the '88-'89 season: Georgia Tech, Fresno State, Georgia, North Carolina State, Maryland, Florida State.

Considering the level of competition and the quality of athletes that she's been able to sign, it appears that Tyler is on her way to helping Howard get a berth to the playoffs within the next season or two.

SIAC football

Albany State, Savannah State, and Alabama A & M dominated the voting in the media picks for the SIAC pre-season all-conference teams. The Rams and Tigers each had seven players chosen and the Bulldogs had five players picked.

Shannon Sharpe, Savannah State's wide receiver, is the pre-season pick for SIAC Offensive Player of the Year. Albany State linebacker Michael Pullins was the choice for conference Defensive Player of

Here's the SIAC's pre-season first team all-conference squads as picked by the

OFFENSE

Linemen: Jonathon Warren, Albany State; Tony Jordan, Albany State; Bernard Patterson, Alabama A & M; Greg Ellison, Ft. Valley State

Center; Madison Johnson, Tuskegee

Tight End: Kenneth Brown, Savannal

Wide Receivers: Shannon Sharpe, Savannah State; Felix Lewis, Clark/Atlanta

Quarterback: Richard Basil, Savannah

Running Backs: Curtis Bell, Ft. Valley State; Willie Conway, Albany State

Kicker (PAT/FGs): Clay Perkins Albany State Return Specialist: Willie DeLoach,

Savannah State

DEFENSE Linemen: Damon Johnson, Savanna

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

was chosen as the tourney's MVP. Wilkins

played her high school basketball at H.D.

team's level of play by going against the

best competition that she can find. She feels

that's one of the ways that black colleges

can enhance their chances of getting post-

Tyler is a proponent of elevating her

Woodson in Washington, D.C.

State; Wilbert Jack Cooper, Albany State; Sean Broadwater, Morehouse College; Carl Dawson, Alabama A & M Linebackers: Michael Pullins, Albany

State; Wesley McGriff, Savannah State; Daryl McCormick, Savannah State

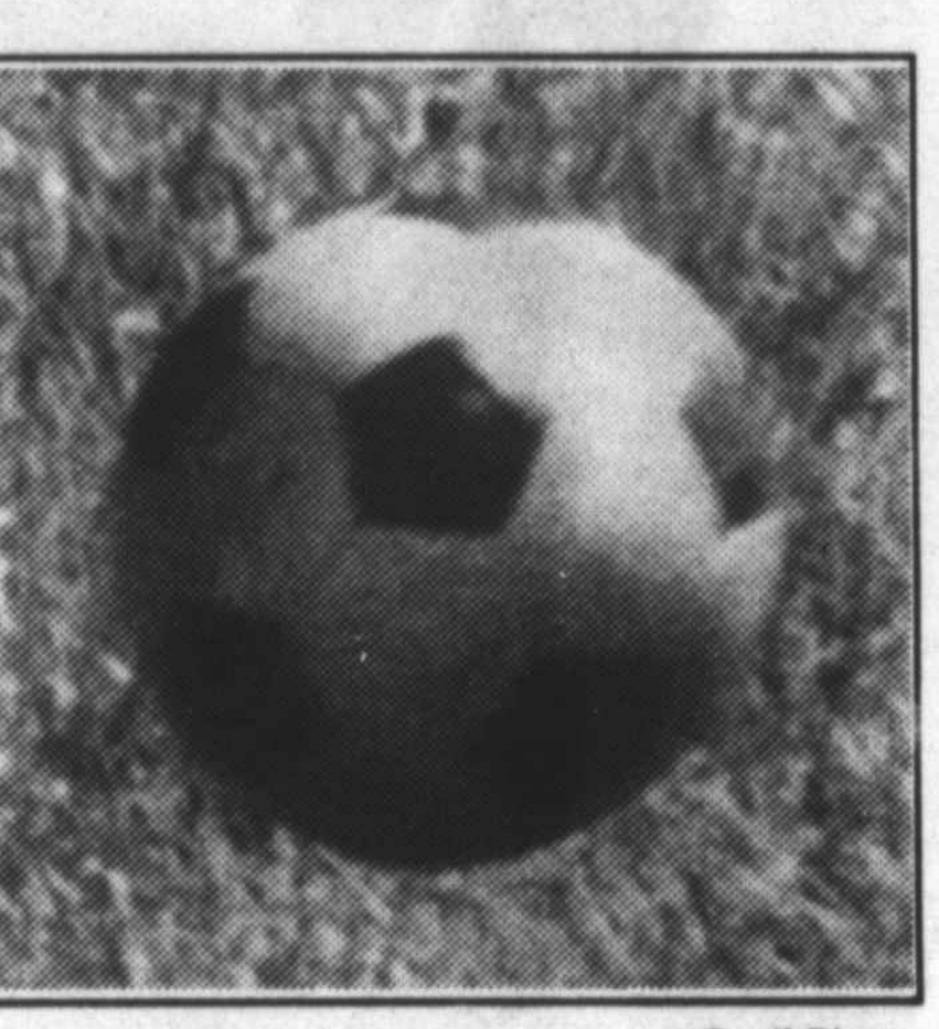
Cornerbacks: Terry Smith, Alabama

A & M; Mario Black, Ft. Valley State

Strong Safety: Harvey Clayton, Alaba-

Free Safety: Mike Wallace, Savannah

Punter: William Garth, Alabama A &



Soccer: HU vs. A & M

Two kingpins among Division I soccer programs will get together this fall when the Howard University Bison visit the Bulldogs of Alabama A & M on Sept. 17 at

The game will mark the first time that two black colleges have faced one another in Division I soccer, according to Bulldogs

This past season, Howard finished the season at 19-1-1 and finished second in the NCAA championship finals, losing 1-0 to eventual champ, Indiana.

Alabama A & M finished the year at 18-5. After taking Division II titles in '77 and '79, A & M became a Division I program in '80. In '84, the Bulldogs finished the regular season with an 18-0 mark and were ranked No. 1 in Division I.

No commissioner yet

The CIAA is still conducting its search for a commissioner to succeed Bob Moorman, who stepped down from that post in late April. At presstime, it was learned that the selection process is still taking place. No deadline has been set for when the new commissioner will assume his duties.

However, there are two names that repeatedly come up when discussing the position. One is Chris Fisher who is currently the athletic director at North Carolina Central, the other is Dr. James Frank, commissioner of the SWAC.

Fisher is said to be very interested in the job and conference observers feel he has the right qualities to pick up where Moorman left off in taking the CIAA to new levels of progress.

Frank, on the other hand, didn't indicate if he was interested in the post. He says that nobody from the CIAA has contacted him about the possibility of becoming the conference's head man.

- Antonio Nunn

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