



Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

Cold, bold, Black and together. Timmy White.

Perhaps you remember reading that USC last year recruited, successfully, the top six prep quarterbacks in the country. Jack Disney, LA writer, did an article on Mr. White that I'm sure would be of interest to any young gifted Black athlete who is seriously considering matriculating at USC. As the quarterback at Asbury Park High School in New Jersey, Timmy White received inordinate attention for a 17-year-old athlete. Disney writes further: The most exciting thing to come out of high school since Lana Turner, they said.

Within two days time, during February of 1977, the front door of Timmy's family's modest South Belmer, N.J. home became the destination of college football's famous coaches.

Bear Bryant came calling. So did Woody Hayes. Joe Paterno was there. And so were Terry Donahue (UCLA) and John Robinson (USC).

The Associated Press sent a correspondent. So did UP. The New York Daily News and the Newark Star-Ledger.

It was as if the world frothing to know where Timmy White would play his college football. It's not every year the Eastern States' sprint champion can throw a football 60 yards.

"I think I had offers from everywhere except maybe Alaska and Bermuda," recalls the 5-11, 175 pound pride of Asbury Park.

What nobody told young White, and perhaps Robinson should have, was that maybe his talents weren't right for the Southern Cal I formation. Wishbone seemed more Timmy White's style.

He had completed 30 of 67 passes for Asbury High, Disney writes. But young White had averaged 8.2 yards carrying the football. Speed was clearly his ally. Timmy White had watched Jimmy Jones quarterback USC on TV in the early seventies. Jimmy Jones had overcome much the same kind of skepticism. Timmy White wanted one day to emulate Jimmy Jones.

Besides, USC had been where O.J. carried the ball. It was the school way out West where they had that white horse around the track. The only thing that Timmy didn't like was those awful uniforms with those long white socks and black shoes. But now, Timmy says, "They don't look so bad."

All Timmy wanted from USC was the assurance of a fair trial at quarterback. The rest, he was confident, would take care of itself.

So when John Robinson told Timmy White that he would indeed get his shot, USC had won perhaps the most celebrated interscholastic football player in history.

What young Timmy didn't know,

however, was that USC had also won four other blue chip prep quarterbacks, all with superb credentials. "I honestly wasn't interested in the material things some of the others offered," says White. Like the cushy job for his father. Or the brand new garage for the South Belmer home. Or the cars several recruiters offered.

If you look at your program Saturday at the Coliseum, you'll find Timmy White's name. He's Number 6, a nice low number befitting a quarterback.

But Number 6 isn't a quarterback now. And don't look on the two-deep lineup for Timmy White's name. He is USC's third string flanker, right behind freshman Jeff Simmons, who backs up Kevin Williams.

Timmy White never played last season. He was red-shirted, not an uncommon practice with a talented freshman quarterback to preserve a season of eligibility during a year of learning.

He technically remains a freshman. Meanwhile, Timmy White agreed to a temporary switch of positions.

"We still feel he has a future at quarterback and we'll move him back there after the season," says Coach John. "But we felt he must contribute now. With our present quarterback situation, Timmy's best opportunity is at wide receiver. He's a natural athlete with great speed and he learns quickly."

How many times has this situation occurred in college to good Black athletes? Too many. Says White, "It's the best thing for me in terms of right now. But I'm not ready to give it up on quarterback."

"I didn't come here expecting to be an instant superstar," he says. "We didn't have the most sophisticated high school football team."

A rumor recently surfaced, writes Disney, that Timmy White would transfer to Oklahoma where the quarterback is just as likely to run as pass. Not true says White. "I've never considered leaving. I've got a challenge here."

White's best friends have told him that he's not going to play quarterback at SC, and that he should become a wide receiver.

He grins. And in a voice still hoarse, Disney says, from yelling at the sidelines, Timmy White says, "I didn't know anybody when I came here. But even in my worst depression, I never felt homesick. There's nothing really wrong with Asbury Park. But I'd become the water boy before I'd leave here." Why is SC a perennial winner? Well, for starters they have young men at every position with almost the same problem as Mr. Timmy White. Charles White, their All American tailback, was almost switched to defense in his freshman year.



Portland NAACP President Lucious Hicks IV (right) and Life Membership Chairman Isaac Payne (second from left) present Mrs. Faralene Gaither, Vice President of the Multnomah Women's Club, Inc., with the civic organization's NAACP Golden Heritage Life Membership plaque. Dr. Clarence Pruitt, NAACP Second Vice President and Chairman of the Membership Committee looks on. The Multnomah Women's Club, Inc. received the first fully-paid NAACP Golden Heritage Life Membership (\$1,000) on October 6th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aurthur Cox.



Multnomah Women's Club, Inc. members who attended the ceremony include: Mrs. Mamie West; Mrs. Gaither; Mrs. Shirley King; Mrs. Viola Mayes; Mrs. Martha Payne (Treasurer); Mrs. Arie Randall; Mrs. Etale Cox; Mrs. Pricilla Calhoun (Secretary); Mrs. Jewell White and Mrs. Russia Mae Lewis.

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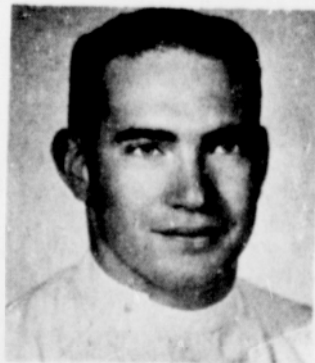
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