

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Sports Illustrated Cover shot

A SPECIAL PLAYER

MSU GREAT PASSES: Morgan State product Marvin Webster touted on the 1970s cover of Sports Illustrated as the New York Knicks' savior.

**CIAA DRAWS LARGE CROWDS, AGAIN;
GOLFING PIONEER HONORED BY PGA**

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

CARTER LEAVES BOWIE STATE:

Bowie State athletic director **Derek Carter** announced last week that he is leaving to accept the same position with **Delaware State** in early May. Carter has served as Bowie State's athletic director since July 2003.



BSU Sports Photo
CARTER: Leaving Bowie State to become AD at Del State.

Amir Mohammadi, Delaware State vice president of Finance and Administration and the chair of the University's AD Search Committee, said Carter was the top choice among 65 candidates that DSU considered.

"He has a wealth of experience at Division I and Division II, and DSU

is very fortunate to attract and hire an athletic director with such a wealth of experience," Mr. Mohammadi said.

Carter will be replaced by **Arlene Creek** on an interim basis. Creek, currently senior woman administrator at BSU, has a long relationship with the university. She received her B.S. in health and physical education from Bowie State and her M.S. from Virginia Tech. She has served in the athletic department for more than thirty years, including 18 years as women's basketball head coach.

CIAA PACKS 'EM IN, AGAIN:

Despite tough economic times, the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) produced another successful Basketball Tournament this past February.

According to the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA), the 2009 CIAA Tournament accounted for direct spending of \$25.5 million and a total economic impact of \$38.2 million over the five-day Tournament period. While the actual number of CIAA visitors was about the same as last year, median spending per person increased from \$695 in 2008 to \$760 in 2009, creating the increase in overall economic impact.

"These results are remarkable and show the great strength of the CIAA fan base and the strong partnership the fans and Charlotte have developed to have such excellent results amid trying economic times," stated Tim Newman, CEO of the CRVA.

In a year where sporting event attendance is down across the board, and where other NCAA conference tournaments experienced significant decreases in attendance, the CIAA was able to maintain positive momentum through its loyal fan base, many of whom view the Tournament week as an absolute must-attend annual event.

"As I've said before, the CIAA fans are the best in the world and they continue to amaze me with their support for this conference," said CIAA Commissioner **Leon Kerry**. "We work very hard to make sure the Tournament and affiliated activities offer something for everyone and we are constantly updating the 'CIAA Experience' so that fans will attend year-after-year."

Overall attendance for official CIAA functions remained essentially flat from 2008 numbers at around 180,000 as the multitude of options continued to spread fans throughout the area. The Tournament is also unique in its ability to bring in fans that just want to be "part of the scene" - much like the Superbowl or NBA All-Star Weekend.

The CIAA Ford Fan Experience remained a popular attraction with CIAA patrons drawing more than 32,000 fans over the three-day period. Highlights of the Fan Experience included the Rock the Rim Vendor Street, Steve Harvey Morning Show, the Mo'Nique Show, a concert series featuring national recording artists Robin Thicke, Anthony Hamilton and gospel recording artist Yolanda Adams, Taste of Food Lion Super Stage featuring B. Smith and G. Garvin, Funkmaster Flex Ford car display, and many more interactive activities for people of all ages.

The official CIAA Tournament Web site (www.ciaa-tournament.org), which serves as a central hub to connect CIAA alumni and Tournament attendees, drew 141,818 unique visitors in 2009; a 37 percent increase from 103,532 in 2008.

"Human Eraser" passes

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

"The NBA never saw the real Marvin Webster."

That's the quote from **Joe McIver**, a former **Morgan State** teammate of the 7-1 Webster, dubbed "The Human Eraser" for his shot-blocking ability and overall dominance during a brilliant college career at MSU.

Webster, 56, a Baltimore native, was found dead in a hotel room bathroom last week in Tulsa, Okla. His body was discovered in his room Monday morning in the downtown Ambassador Hotel, police said Wednesday. Foul play is not suspected and the death apparently stemmed from an illness, police spokesman Jason Willingham said. He added that the former 7-foot-1 center had been living at the hotel and employees grew concerned after not seeing him for several days.

The medical examiner office said the cause of death has not been determined. W. Charles Bennett, Webster's former agent and current financial adviser, said Webster's death was related to coronary artery disease.

Webster's shot-blocking ability and overall agility, McIver said, was seriously hampered after he contracted hepatitis and started taking medication after the 1974 season. That was the year that saw the Bears, behind the dominating center's control of the paint, capture the NCAA Div. II national championship. It was the second NCAA hoops championship for a black college following **Winston-Salem State's** title in 1967 behind head coach **Clarence "Big House" Gaines** and star player **Earl "The Pearl" Monroe**.

With his standout play and nickname, earned after he averaged 8 blocks per game in '74, Webster became a star.

"His junior year (1974), Marvin weighed about 195 pounds," said McIver. "He could run the floor and play at both ends. We literally had just one job on that team - send people to Marvin and block his man out (getting ready for the carom from his blocks or the rebound). That's all we had to do."

The Bears, who finished 32-5 that season under head coach **Nat Frazier**, won the NCAA championship over Southwest Missouri State, 67-52. Two of their losses that season were to MEAC rival, **Maryland-Eastern Shore**, one in the finals of the MEAC Tournament. UMES that year became the first HBCU team to play in the NIT.

That was Webster's junior year when he averaged 21 points and 22.4 rebounds to go with his eight blocked shots a game. He was a runaway choice as Division II player of the year.

"Marvin was the real deal," said McIver, an associate athletic director at Morgan State for the last 12 years after spending 25 years as the school's sports information director. McIver played with Webster from 1971-74 and was a member of the championship team.

"They weren't keeping blocked shot statistics at that time," McIver said. "By his senior year he didn't block shots, he was catching them."

Webster still holds eight career school records at Morgan State: 1,990 points, 2,267 rebounds, 19.5 rebounds per game, 785 field goals made, 424 free throws made, 644 free throws attempted, 722 blocks and 110 games started. His 740 rebounds in 1974 and 2,267 career total are still second all-time in NCAA history in their respective categories. He was named to the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball 50th Anniversary All-Elite Eight Team in 2006.

"He wasn't the same," McIver said of his friend after the hepatitis. Webster had a significant weight gain (as a result of the medication) and lost some of his quickness and mobility.

"He could have been (like former Navy and San Antonio Spurs Hall of Fame center) David Robinson."



MSU Sports Photo

WEBSTER: (Above) At Morgan State, where he earned the name "Human Eraser" for his shot-blocking ability and (left) as a center for the Seattle SuperSonics who he helped to reach the NBA Finals in 1978.

Indeed, Webster was taken in the first round of the 1975 National Basketball Association (NBA) Draft, third overall by the Atlanta Hawks, two selections behind North Carolina State standout David Thompson, the top pick. Webster was picked first overall in the American Basketball Association (ABA) Draft, by Denver, ahead of Thompson.

"That tells you right there what they thought of Marvin," said McIver. "Do you know how good David Thompson was. He had a better college career than Michael Jordan. NC State won the (Div. I) national title with him. That guy was unbelievable and they picked Marvin ahead of him." McIver, a part of the very private Webster's inner circle of friends, was in his home on draft night.

Webster made his professional debut in 1975 with the Nuggets, playing in the American Basketball Association before the Nuggets joined the N.B.A. in the two leagues' merger the following year. After two seasons in Denver, Webster joined the SuperSonics and turned in what would be his best pro season, averaging 14 points and 12.6 rebounds as Seattle went to the seventh game of the 1978 championship final before losing to the Washington Bullets.

Envisioned as a future star, Webster signed a five-year contract with the Knicks following that season, and he proved effective at times teaming with the 7-foot Bill Cartwright. Webster provided defense and rebounding while Cartwright was an outstanding shooter. But Webster was plagued by the hepatitis, as well as tendinitis in his right knee.

He missed all of the 1984-85 season and the outset of the next season because of the hepatitis before announcing his retirement in December 1985, having averaged only 6 points and 6.2 rebounds a game as a Knick. The team made the playoffs in only three of Webster's six seasons and never advanced beyond a conference semifinal round in the post-season. Since his retirement, he tried a brief comeback, playing in the Continental Basketball Association and briefly with the Milwaukee Bucks in 1986-87.

McIver said teammates from the '74 championship team had been looking for Webster for the last several years. When several members got together recently, McIver said, most of the conversation was "about Marvin." They were shocked to hear that Webster, who had been travelling the country somewhat over the last several years, was in Oklahoma.

"We were a really close team," said McIver. "Morgan State was a football and track school when we got there. Frazier came in in 1971 and turned that around." McIver said he last saw Webster in 1999, when the team had a 25th anniversary celebration. "He was a unique individual - a nice down-to-earth guy. We've missed him for a long time," he said.

Public viewing services were held at Green Funeral Home on Wednesday (April 15) from 5 to 8 p.m. and Thursday (April 16) from noon to 8 p.m. The funeral service will be 11 a.m. Friday at Greater New Hope Baptist Church in Baltimore.

Golf pioneer honored by PGA

By The PGA of America - PGA.com

William J. (Bill) Powell of East Canton, Ohio, who overcame racial barriers to become the first African-American to design, build, own and operate a golf course while pioneering diversity in the game, has been named the recipient of the 2009 PGA Distinguished Service Award.

Powell, 92, and a PGA Life Member, will be honored in conjunction with the 91st PGA Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn. The award presentation will be conducted Aug. 12, in downtown Minneapolis. The PGA Distinguished Service Award is the Association's highest annual honor.

"William Powell's dream to build a golf course where players regardless of the color of their skin would be welcome was a task that he met under great duress, hardship and personal sacrifice," said PGA of America President Jim Remy. "Yet, Mr. Powell displayed exceptional courage, grace and the finest character while persevering toward his goal of opening Clearview Golf Club."

"He and his family represent the best in our sport and what it means to treat one's neighbor with dignity and respect. The PGA of America is extremely proud to be presenting Mr. Powell, a legend in our time, with the 2009 PGA Distinguished Award."

Powell is the father of PGA and LPGA Professional **Renee Powell**, the 2003 PGA First Lady of Golf and the second African-American to compete on the LPGA Tour. Renee is the PGA head professional at Clearview Golf Club in East Canton, Ohio, where she is joined by her brother, Larry, a member of the Golf Course Superintendents of America.

In September 1946, while denied a G.I. Loan despite serving honorably in the U.S. Army Air Corps, Bill Powell received the financial backing of two black physicians in nearby Canton and Massillon, Ohio, to begin building a public golf course. Powell added his own part of the necessary capital after his brother, Berry, took out a loan on his home.

Powell's dream took fruit in April 1948, with nine holes opening for play on the former dairy farmland. A decade later, Powell bought out his partners and added an additional 52 acres for a second nine holes.

The complete 18-hole layout was opened for play in 1978. Powell's family, including his late wife, Marcella; eldest son, Billy (now deceased); daughter Renee; son Larry and a close friend, the late Euley Green, formed the workforce that prepared and polished Clearview.

Today, Clearview Golf Club is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Powell once described Clearview, a 130-acre property, as "America's Course . . . a course where the only color that matters is the color of the greens."

"This is quite an honor, and it is something I savor due to so many good people in The PGA that made it happen," said Powell. "I am so humbled to have people think this way of me. I have had so many special things happen to me, I believe, because golf sees no color. It is a game that brings out the best in people and it is vital to young people. Golf means nothing but good. If you can get young people in the game, then they are good for all their lives."

Powell said that he believes that when Clearview Golf Club opened for play in 1948, it truly represented "America's First Tee."

"I have not reached my dream, but at the same time I feel thankful that we have made a good start and have worked to get everyone into the game," Powell said. "I think people realize how hard I worked to get this course started, but they didn't understand why I was so motivated. I had a lot of anxiety; I felt that something was going to happen before I finished. Twenty four hours in the day was not enough!"

Born Nov. 22, 1916, in Butler County, Greenville, Ala., Powell was the third child of six children of Berry and Massaleaner Powell. As the post-World War I economy shifted, the Powell family moved to Minerva, Ohio, where Berry Powell ended his business of owning a general store and found steady work in a pottery factory.

Bill Powell discovered a love for golf at age 9 by playing and caddying at Edgewater Golf Course. As his own game developed, Powell became a multi-sport athlete at Minerva High School. Powell and his friends formed a golf team and he was asked by the athletic director to serve as captain and coach. That meant Powell would schedule matches against all local schools.

Powell became a fine amateur player and was the first black to compete in a junior event at Orchard Hills Country Club (now Arrowhead Country Club) in north Canton. For two days, the 16-year-old Powell hitchhiked 42 miles round trip to the course and finished third in the tournament.

He later attended **Wilberforce University** in Xenia, Ohio, where in 1937 the school's men's golf team traveled to face Ohio Northern University at Lost Creek Country Club in Lima, Ohio. It was the first inter-racial collegiate golf match in American history, with Wilberforce



PGA.com photo

POWELL: Golf course founder, owner, builder, and operator to receive the 2009 PGA Distinguished Service Award on August 12 in Minnesota.

returning home triumphant and also capturing the rematch.

Powell met Marcella Oliver and they were married Nov. 22, 1940, Powell's birthday. Powell went on to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps through the end of World War II. He returned to Canton, Ohio, where he continued his position at Timken Company, a roller bearing and steel manufacturer, where he worked for 23 years.

Renee Powell became the second African American female to compete on the LPGA Tour (after **Florida A&M's Althea Gibson**) in 1967 and later served as a head professional at a golf club in England. She earned PGA of America membership in 1996.

In 1992, the Powells were honored by the National Golf Foundation as the Jack Nicklaus Golf Family of the Year. That same year, William was awarded the "Cornerstone of Freedom Award" from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. In 1996, Powell was inducted into the National Black Golf Hall of Fame and in 1997 was presented Honorary PGA membership by the Northern Ohio PGA Section. In 1999, his membership was made retroactive to Jan. 1, 1962, thus making Powell a PGA Life Member.

Powell also received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees from his alma mater, Wilberforce University, and from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. In 1999, Powell was a national panelist, invited with his daughter by the Smithsonian Institution to discuss African Americans and the Game of Golf: Past, Present and Future.

The Tiger Woods Foundation today annually awards the William and Marcella Powell Scholarships. In 2007, William and Renee Powell were inducted into the Ohio Golf Hall of Fame.

The PGA Distinguished Service Award, inaugurated in 1988, honors outstanding individuals who display leadership and humanitarian qualities, including integrity, sportsmanship and enthusiasm for the game of golf.