CYCLING

CONTINUED

to the final, 200-meter portion of the race. Indeed, Vails' semifinal opponent in the '84 Olympics stopped for more than a minute to keep from being in first. The timed competition takes place over the last 200 meters and is over in the time it takes to run 100 meters.

Amateur Americans rely on corporate sponsorship to maintain their training needs. Although corporations like 7-Eleven Food Stores and Adolph Coors Co. have come through with major contributions to cycling, only Vails has obtained a sponsor.

Taylor says year-round training keeps the Eastern Europeans ahead of everybody else.

"Training is a job for the East Germans," said Taylor, who follows all three black bikers closely. "They don't have a choice.

"That's not to say the East Germans, for example, are untalented. Hesslich is awesome. He's like Larry Bird. You can't take anything from him. He beats you without overextending himself."

Taylor said the American response to cycling is to train in the spring and summer and hope for the best. But if the United States devoted itself to a full-time training schedule for its best athletes, the world standings would be different.

"If we put Carl Lewis on a bike and trained him year-round for two years, he would blow a Hesslich away," Taylor said. "But we don't take Carl Lewises and put them on bikes. Our priorities are different."

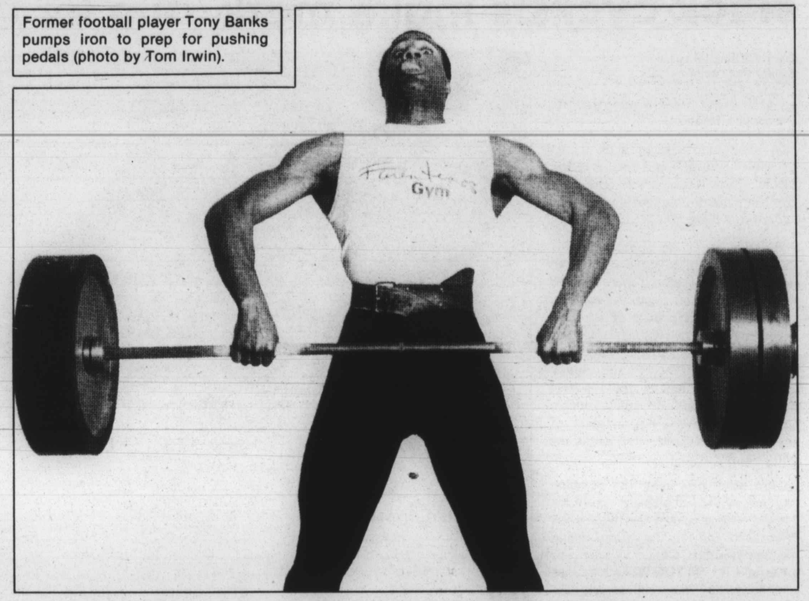
While year-round training is a difficult proposition for American cyclists, they do their best to cope. For Banks and Berryman, who both live in Boulder, that means a lot of road work and frequent commutes to the Olympic Training Center Velodrome in Colorado Springs, located some 6,000 feet above sea level.

"My daily routine is no less than 10 miles and not more than 30 miles on the road," said Banks, a commercial recreation major at the University of Colorado. "Match sprint is a matter of energy, not endurance. So I don't overemphasize the road work."

Banks, a former football linebacker at Western State University in Gunnison, Colo., said there are similarities between match sprinting and football.

"Both are reactionary competitions," said Banks, son of Howard University Physical Education and Recreation Department Chairman Marshall Banks. "You hesitate, then react with an explosion of energy. Another thing that's similar is the time control. The sprint is over in 10 or 11 seconds. It takes about the same amount of time for a play in football."

Former football player Tony Banks pumps iron to prep for pushing pedals (photo by Tom Irwin).



Berryman was on the heels of national champion Gorski several years ago. Gorski was being clocked at 11.5 or 11.6 seconds and Berryman 11.7 or 11.8. But Gorski underwent weight training and took a half-second off his time. Both Berryman and Vails renewed their efforts to catch the national champion.

Vails, the only racer with a sponsor, has come the closest to catching Gorski. A photo finish determined their duel for first place in the 1983 nationals, but Gorski prevailed. Vails won the Pam Am games that same year, but Gorski did not compete. The following summer, Gorski edged Vails for the Olympic gold.

Berryman has come on in the last two years, finishing second to Gorski in the '85 nationals and sixth in the Goodwill Games last month in Moscow (Gorski finished fourth).

Banks, meanwhile, has been paying his dues. Before his career started, the football player tested out in the 98th percentile in tests given to potential cyclists. That meant he was already an Olympic-caliber athlete before he began training. He came of age fast, too, placing second in the Colorado state competition and eighth nationally his first year. Since then he has won several major races, including the 7-Eleven Grand Prix.

"Tony is an experiment," Taylor said. "It's kind of like Arthur Ashe. He has the body for the sport, but not the experience."

Banks is all business about his progress.

"I don't socialize with the other cyclists that much," he said. "I don't do the bikers' social scene.

"Nelson is older than me and we're from opposite sides of the continent, but I respect him for who he is. I'm closer to Scott."

Banks also exudes a quiet confidence in his cycling future.

"I feel with the proper training and proper sponsorship, I'm set," he said.

Vails, whose brother was a distance cyclist, is an extrovert and has even dreamed of being an entertainer. His fancy is to be a kind of actor -- a pornographic star.

Vails races for the Levi-Raleigh team, and is very much a New Yorker. Quick with the wit and tongue, the Harlem native will refer to himself in the third person and comes up with some catchy phrases. He calls himself a "rolling billboard" for the numerous ads that are painted and patched onto his cycling attire.

While Vails isn't your stereotypical macho jock, he is streetwise and occasionally comes off as callous. He doesn't fear a fall, which can be quite a bloody experience at 40 miles per hour on a concrete track, and he doesn't believe his cycling background was deprived because he didn't grow up in a bodysuit.

"A lot of top cyclists couldn't handle New York's traffic," he said. "I've nearly run into a few cabs and buses in my day. I've had plenty of near misses."

Vails, who made up to $400 a week as a messenger on spokes in New York City, also has a wife and two daughters. Berryman and Banks are single and younger.

"They come from your basic black, middle-class American family," Taylor said. "You know that picture you get on 'The Cosby Show.' Well, it's real. I don't think they're attracted to money and stardom. They're into the competition, into excelling.

"Nelson is the real item. He's hard core. You know, the Harlem kid who's hustled for everything he's got."

One of Vails' former coaches, Carl Leusenkamp, has said that the 25-year-old Vails "has the ability to be the best in the world." The '88 Olympics loom as perhaps his last chance to prove that, for the youngest of the three would be 29 come the 1992 Games.

No matter how well this threesome does in such international competition as the World Championships -- to be held this month in Colorado Springs -- each owes a debt to the past. To Butch Martin and to a man named Major Taylor, a champion cyclist at the turn of the century, when the sport was a

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BLACK COLLEGE REPORT

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The remaining order of finish in the division was predicted to be Fayetteville State, Livingstone, Johnson C. Smith and Bowie State.

Hampton University, the defending conference champion, was voted to repeat as Northern Division champion. The Pirates received 115 points and 10 first-place votes. Norfolk State was second with 82 points. Virginia Union, receiver of 76 points, earned the other two first-place votes.

The rest of the predicted finish was Virginia State, Elizabeth City State and St. Paul's.

MEAC: Delaware State was voted to defend its MEAC football championship.

The Hornets received nine first-place votes and 132 points in a poll of league coaches and sports information directors. North Carolina A&T, coming off its first winning season in four years, was second in the polling with 108 votes and a first-place vote.

"Those predictions are for the media," Hornet Coach **William Collick** said. "We're coming off what is considered our finest season ever and we have 14 starters back, but I personally feel there's never been as much parity in the MEAC as today."

A&T's **Mo Forte** agreed.

"It will be extremely interesting to see if the champion has one loss," Forte said. "Rather than on rare occasions, I think close games are going to be the rule."

Bethune-Cookman, which finished second last year, landed in third with 76 points and two first-place votes. Howard University was just behind B-CC with 72 points and a first-place vote. South Carolina State, which finished third last season, was fifth at 62 points. However, the Bulldogs, under new Coach **Dennis Thomas**, received two first-place votes. Last year, South Carolina State was on top of the preseason poll.

Morgan State was voted to finish in sixth place.

SWAC: Jackson State is picked to repeat as the Southwestern Athletic Conference winner.

The Tigers were followed by Grambling State, Southern University, Mississippi Valley, Alcorn State, Texas Southern, Prairie View A&M and Alabama State.

Booker Theft Leader

Black college baseball has produced another stolen-base champion.

This time the honor belongs to **Jason Booker** of Coppin State. Booker, who stole 49 bases in 51 attempts in the spring, hopes to follow in the footsteps of St. Louis Cardinals outfielder **Vince Coleman**, who holds the NCAA single-season record. Coleman stole 65 for Florida A&M in 1980.

Booker, who has finished his eligibility at Coppin, was not chosen in baseball's amateur free-agent draft last month. But he still hopes to attract the eye of a pro scout. However, an injury to his jaw has forced him to rest this summer.

"Next summer I plan to play in the Baltimore Major Leagues, which is the best semi-pro league on the Eastern Seaboard," Booker said. "I think I have many more years left in this game."

Booker was a prep standout at Baltimore's Edmondson High School and batted .520 with 31 stolen bases in only 14 games in 1982.

After a somewhat disappointing start to his college career, Booker gradually worked toward being a reliable leadoff hitter. He batted .336 as a senior with 38 walks.

"I think the thing that turned it around for me was switch-hitting," said Booker, a natural right-handed hitter. "I started to beat out grounders more frequently and I developed a better eye at the plate."

Booker has 3.4 speed down the line batting left-handed; 3.6 from the right side.

A double-major in social work and social science, Booker is working in Coppin State's sports information office this summer.

Walker Retires

Dr. **LeRoy T. Walker**, long-time athletic director and track coach at North Carolina Central, retired last month.

Walker had served the university for 41 years, the last three as acting chancellor.

Two major highlights of Walker's career came in 1976, when he was coach of the U.S. Olympic track and field team and recipient of the O. Max Gardner Award. The latter is the most prestigious award given to a faculty member of the University of North Carolina system.

The bulk of his career came as NCCU's track coach. That career spanned four decades and produced some 40 national champions. Walker was responsible for bringing several major international meets to Durham. He will oversee the National Sports Festival next year when it comes to North Carolina.

Much of Walker's career was devoted to two black college conferences, the CIAA and MEAC. He served as commissioner of both leagues. He also is a member of nine halls of fame.

Coaching Additions

Alcorn State's **Theo Danzy** has added three assistants to his football coaching staff. They are **James Marshall, Tyrone Caldwell** and **John Morgan.**

Danzy is in his first season as Alcorn's head coach, replacing **Marino "Godfather" Casem.** Casem is now the athletic director at Southern University.

Alabama State has added **Johnny Thomas, Darwin Valentine, Stanley Connor** and **Anthony Benjamin** to its football staff.

Morgan Cage Recruits

Second-year Morgan State Coach **Ray McMillan** apparently has landed an outstanding crop of freshmen for his basketball team.

McMillan had a lot of luck with 6-foot-7 players, signing four at that size (**Raylon Adams, George McDowell, Damone Williams** and **Marcus Sheffield**). He also signed 6-9 **Curtis Wise**, 6-6 **George Kottorwas** and 6-1 **Cliff Glover.**

McMillan's efforts were extensive. He signed players from five states: Maryland, Illinois, Nebraska, Georgia and Florida.

Perhaps this will give him a nucleus to turn the Bear basketball program around. Morgan is 10-55 in its first two seasons in Division I.

Football Notes

• ESPN is considering coverage of the South Carolina State-Grambling State game in November. If it is selected, it will be moved from Nov. 15 to Nov. 13, a Thursday night. The game will be played in Orangeburg ....

• Tuskegee is the winningest team in NCAA Division II football with 426 victories ....

• Temple's Sept. 20 game against Florida A&M at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia is not the school's first against a black college. The Owls beat Grambling State 31-30 in 1976 ....

• How good is Southern's **Rufus Porter**? Consider that the 6-foot-3, 215-pound linebacker was the only underclassman from the South (South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma) selected to *The Sporting News'* Division I-AA preseason all-America team ....

• **Dick Enberg** and **Merlin Olsen** didn't point it out, but two former Winston-Salem State players went head-to-head in England Aug. 3 when Dallas played Chicago at London's Wembley Stadium. Indeed, Cowboy running back **Timmy Newsome** put quite a fake on Bear free safety **Jack Cameron** on a 10-yard run in the third quarter ....

• The NCAA has announced that the MEAC has received an automatic berth in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. Still to be resolved is a game between Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M, which will be played the same weekend as the first playoff games. NCAA rules prohibit automatic berths to conferences that have fewer than six teams eligible for the playoffs. If B-CC plays FAMU on the scheduled date, the MEAC will lose the automatic berth. League Commissioner Ken Free said a decision on rescheduling the B-CC/FAMU game was expected by September ....

• North Carolina A&T's **Alan Hooker** heads *The Sporting News* preseason Division I-AA all-America team. The 6-2, 190-pound Hooker passed for 2,096 yards and 24 touchdowns as a sophomore while leading the Aggies to their first winning season since 1980. He completed 54 percent of his passes with eight interceptions. The scrambling quarterback also scored six rushing touchdowns.

Joining him on the *TSN* squad are Southern's Porter, A&T teammate **Herbert Harbison**, Florida A&M's **Antonio Barber, Gene Atkins** and **Bruce Norflee**, Grambling State's **Sean Smith** and **Joe Williams**, Delaware State's **Dan Candeloro** and **Chris Jones**, Alcorn State's **Milton Mack** and **Milton Barney**, Alabama State's **Daryl Pearson** and South Carolina State's **Harley Griffin**.

Sanctions Correction

June's notebook incorrectly reported the violations and under-represented penalties assessed the Elizabeth City State basketball program last season.

The violation was providing plane fare for two members of the family of a Viking player from their hometown to Norfolk, Va., for the 1985 CIAA Tournament. ECSU paid for the trip.

The conference-imposed penalties, according to CIAA Commissioner **Bob Moorman**, were one season's probation, a $500 fine, a two-week suspen-

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