

Dixie Colleges Ready To Open Sports Doors

By TREZZVANT W. ANDERSON

ATLANTA, Ga.—Confirmation of reports that integrated colleges and universities in North Carolina and Maryland will recruit Negro athletes to perform on their teams has caused considerable speculation in the Deep South as to what will happen in the Southeastern Conference (SEC).

Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Duke University, Durham, N. C.; the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C., and the University of Maryland all have indicated they are going all-out to get good Negro athletic performers. Maryland expects to field a Negro halfback, next fall.

All these teams are in the 10-year-old Atlantic Coast Conference, and ACC teams meet, regularly, SEC teams. In the SEC, although several schools have ended racial discrimination in classrooms, no Negroes have gone into athletic endeavors.

There is, however, little doubt but that the presence of a top-flight, Negro athletic star would induce the same enthusiastic reaction from Dixie college students as did the scintillating Jackie Robinson, Jimmy Brown and other crack Negro stars, for it could be, perhaps, that the last remaining wall of resistance to Negroes can be knocked down by the entry of crack Negro stars into athletics.

Also, it could sound a tragic blow to Negro colleges, in Dix-

ie, which do not have the strong financial resources with which to compete with the well-heeled white schools, and must operate on tight-margin budgets. The competition is going to be pretty rough, and there could be a working-away of Negro stars in classes below seniors, to the white schools which have more to offer.

Football Coach Bill Hildebrand of Wake Forest College, a Baptist institution, was frank about the situation.

"It is, now, my understanding that, definitely, we are to recruit, actively, Negro athletes," he said. Too, he said, this meant, his staff, would avail itself of all "top athletes who meet the high standards of Wake Forest College." The college ended racial lines one year ago. Dr. Harold Tribble, college head, supported Hildebrand's viewpoint, and endorsed it.

Coach Bill Murray of Duke, had no direct comment on the recruitment angle, but did note that Negroes had played against Duke teams at Durham both in football and basketball, without incident, in pre-

vious years. "I anticipate no trouble," he said. Duke is one of the richest, private schools in the South.

Athletic Director C. P. Erickson, at the University of North Carolina, said his school would look for good students, good athletes and good campus citizens. "We never have given consideration to anything else," he said. "All colors are eligible."

Three years ago, a Negro, Irwin Holmes of Durham, N.C., captained the N. C. tennis team, and won a varsity letter in the ACC.

Only North Carolina State College said it planned not to recruit Negro athletes. But the statement was made by Earle Edwards, football coach. N. C. State is noted, nationally, however, for its great basketball teams, drawing chiefly upon Indiana for its new stars.

Tom Nugent, football coach at Maryland, said he expected Darryl Hill (a 5' 11", 165-pounder) to be playing for the Terrapins, next season. Hill is a transfer student who resigned from the U. S. Naval Academy, last May. He starred with the Navy plumes, and scored three touchdowns against the Maryland frosh. He decided against a Naval career.

The new attitude may bring a definite change in the pattern of athletics at Deep-South colleges. It's well worth watching.