

THE LEXINGTON LEADER

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Kentucky's Best Negro Athletes Go To Other States To Play

On the All-Tournament team chosen at the close of the recent State High School Basketball Tournament, eight of the ten players selected as outstanding were Negroes. A basketball referee who officiated at games throughout the state this season said that in his opinion the five top high-school players in Kentucky were all Negroes. Many of the foremost college, university and professional players throughout the country are Negroes.

These facts add a point, albeit a somewhat selfish one, to the editorial plea of The Kentucky Kernel, the University of Kentucky student newspaper, that UK abandon its policy of excluding Negroes from its athletic teams. More than this, as The Kernel points out, it is a matter of justice.

Kentucky is producing outstanding Negro athletes who play on such all-Negro teams as Dunbar in Lexington and on integrated teams such as Maysville and Seneca. The

State High School Tournament has been entirely desegregated for several years. These Negro athletes, however, find little opportunity for collegiate athletics in Kentucky, and many go to other states where they help put their teams in the national tourneys and gain the prominence that is denied them in Kentucky.

Membership in the Southeastern Conference requires UK to play a certain number of games with other SEC teams, and those teams in the Deeper South remain strictly segregated. As a result, there is an unwritten rule which keeps Negroes off SEC teams, including Kentucky's.

The Leader agrees with The Kernel that Kentucky should use Negro players, in justice to the athletes produced by the state's high schools and to itself. This might or might not mean leaving the Southeastern Conference, but if it should, that would be no ruinous matter.

U.K. 'Selling' Integration To S.E.C.?

Lexington, Ky., March 25 (AP) —The University of Kentucky will try to sell the Southeastern Conference on the idea of recruiting Negro athletes, a highly placed source at the University said Monday.

"This suggestion that we pull out of the Southeastern Conference because no Negroes are on its athletic teams is not a good idea in any way, shape or form," the source said.

His comments referred to an editorial last week in the Kentucky Kernel, student newspaper at the University, which advocated the University withdraw from the S.E.C. and begin at once to recruit Negroes.

Athletic Director Bernie Shively has declined any comment on the editorial. University President Frank G. Dickey said any such action would have to come from the school's athletics board or board of trustees.

Feels Integration Inevitable

The source, who declined to be named, explained that the University feels integration of sports in the S.E.C., the only major conference in the country that does not allow Negroes to play, is inevitable.

The source also disputed that there is any ruling, written, unwritten or otherwise, against recruiting Negroes for play in the S.E.C.

Daily Texan Editor Demands Get Out Of SEC

The Kentucky Kernel, student newspaper at the University of Kentucky, advocated this week that Kentucky withdraw from the Southeastern Conference and begin recruiting Negro athletes.

DIVORCE FROM POLICY

"If the University is to live up to its moral obligation and make significant progress as a major institution it must divorce itself from the segregation policy which dominates the Southeastern Conference," the newspaper said in an editorial for Friday editions.

"We have the golden opportunity to become leaders. We can stand up and tell the world that we, a southern university, are sick of having a doctrine of racial inferiority rammed down our throats."

The newspaper quoted Athletic Director Bernie Shively as saying that the University would lose tremendous prestige by pulling out of the conference.

SCRAMBLIN'

with

EDDIE DEAN

Sports Editor

The Commercial Dispatch



Maybe Kentucky Should Leave SEC For Negroes

We see where the editor of the University of Kentucky student newspaper has advocated the withdrawal of the University from the Southeastern Conference for the expressed purpose of recruiting negro athletes.

This was bound to happen in the not too distant future. Kentucky, along with a couple or three other universities in the conference have been the doormats of their big brothers and on the bottom of the Dixie Dozen.

The editor states, and we quote, "If the university (Kentucky) is to live up to its moral obligation and make significant progress as a major institution, it must divorce itself from the segregation policy which dominates the Southeastern Conference."

First, we would like to know how such a policy would make the University of Kentucky any more progressive. The school is recognized as one of the finest academic colleges in the country.

The editorial further states, "Here and now with a withdrawal from the SEC, or an announcement that we will begin to recruit negro players by a certain date, we have the golden opportunity to become leaders."

We can stand up and tell the world that we, a Southern University, are sick and tired of having a doctrine of racial inferiority rammed down our throats."

Another thing which we have been deceived on for many years, if the editorial is correct, is the fact that Kentucky is a "Southern" university. Just what makes them think that they know anything about the south.

In the editor's final statement, he says that he is sick

and tired of the doctrine of racial inferiority being rammed down our throats.

It is not the doctrine of racial inferiority that has been rammed down the throats of Kentucky but the foul taste of defeat on the football deck year in and year out.

It is a known fact that Kentucky has one of the hardest academic requirements in the nation, and an athlete, especially football players are now known to flock to schools that head up academic polls.

Now what makes this editor think that the university will change its policy and recruit negroes is beyond reason, when they will not do it for white football players at the present. Of course they may.

Kentucky fans and others interested in the SEC may rest assured that officials will study hard if such a proposal is brought forward before turning down the lucrative sums of money that each member of the conference reaps on New Year's day from the bowl games, just for the purpose of having negro athletes.

As we have said, it may happen. Just how they expect it to benefit them is not made clear.