

Terence Moore

If Digger next Irish AD, it's good-bye Cremins

Notes, quotes and reasons to wonder if ics. agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom were offered roles in The Untouchables:

BEWARE, TECH FANS: Now that Gene Corrigan has left Notre Dame as athletic director to become commissioner of the ACC, there is a better than even chance that basketball coach Digger Phelps will be given the AD's job.

So, if you're keeping score, that would leave an opening for a Notre Dame basketball coach. No problem. As mentioned in this space before, one of our impeccable sources in South Bend, Ind., said Georgia Tech's Bobby Cremins would receive the first call from Notre Dame if/when - Phelps leaves someday.

We know. Cremins has said that he is happy at Tech, that he won't go elsewhere, but didn't Bill (Roll Tide Roll) Curry use to say similar

STUDY, STUDY: This has been a precious month for youngsters across the state, courtesy of the University of Georgia. Three basketball signees were denied admission to the university recently because of academic deficiencies. Hallelujah. We're talking signees with much potential. There is 6-foot-7 Marshall Wilson, who averaged 27.8 points and 9.7 rebounds per game at Franklin County High School. Then there are 6-3 Kevin Howard from Atlanta's Douglass High School (17 points, five assists) and 6-2 Anthony Haynes from Macon Central (23 points, nine rebounds).

They failed to reach the minimum 700 score as required by Georgia on their final tries at the Scholastic Aptitude Test. As a result, there have been 25 football or basketball athletes dismissed from or denied admission to Georgia since we heard the lovely words "Jan Kemp."

There is whining around Athens, though. Georgia basketball coach Hugh Durham isn't pleased that Georgia's guidelines for admitting athletes are stricter than the NCAA's. He says, "If the NCAA is the standard by which we are being judged, then we ought to go by NCAA stanadards across the board."

His boss, Vince Dooley, likes to say that Georgia's current academic policy puts the Bulldogs at a disadvantage to other schools.

They get no sympathy here. For one, there were all those years when Georgia had an advantage over other schools with its administrative exits and developmental studies programs. For another, Georgia's current academic standards aren't tough enough, which means the "NCAA's current academic standards have the strength of toilet paper, which means plantation systems remain throughout intercollegiate athletAccording to research by noted sociologist

Harry Edwards of the University of California at Berkeley, only five percent of high school athletes make junior college and major college teams, and only 1.7 percent of college athletes spend at least one year in professional basketball, baseball or football.

The message is simple to young athletes. Study, study, study.

For every Wilson, Howard and Haynes lost because of Georgia's current academic standards, there will be that many more young athletes spared future plantation duty. We're guessing (hoping, praying) that there are those in Georgia-area grade schools, junior high schools and high schools who are watching what's happening at Georgia these days and comtemplating more diligence in their classrooms this fall.

A MARKED HOMBRE: Here's an update on Pascual Perez, the former Atlanta Braves pitcher who specializes in wearing jewelry that weighs more than his 160 pounds. He's pitching for the Triple-A Indianapolis Indians. Even so, he can't escape his Atlanta past. Above his locker is a sign that says "I-285," referring to the time Perez was lost on the perimeter en route to a

Yes, his nickname is "I-285."

A reporter asked Perez this week for directions to the pitcher's apartment complex. "It's somewhere on the west side of town," Perez said, pausing a few seconds. "I don't know the name of the place, but I do know how to get

SOMEBODY EXPLAIN: The Cleveland Indians fired manager Pat Corrales this week and replaced him with their bullpen coach. After complaints from civil rights groups that the Indians didn't interview a black for the job, club officials said they knew all along that bullpen coach Doc Edwards was their man.

We're confused. If the Indians thought Edwards was so great, why was he only their bullpen coach?

SAY WHAT?: Among the most disgusting baseball stories of the season involves the return of Steve Howe to the major leagues. He has taken two billion drug tests during this decade. He has tested positive about two billion times. Now the Texas Rangers have signed Howe for their farm system.

"There is a bit of a risk that the chemcial is stronger than the person," said Rangers manager Bobby Valentine, "but I'm betting on the person rather than the drug."



Harry Edwards



Digger Phelps



Pascual Perez



Steve Howe

Marshall Wilson still plans to be a Bulldog

If he had it to do again, Marshall Wilson would do the same. A basketball player of rare promise, he'd still sign with Georgia, knowing Georgia is the only college in the land with a stated policy of not admitting athletes who don't meet NCAA requirements for freshman eligibility. He wanted to be a Bulldog that badly. Still

Had he signed with anyone else, signed with Tennessee or South Carolina, two suitors he spurned, falling short of 700 on his SAT wouldn't have left Wilson schoolless. He could've accepted a scholarship, sat out a year and, grades willing, played as a sophomore. Because he signed with Georgia, Marshall Wilson is again looking for a place to land, probably a junior college. Right now, he isn't sure. He'd thought choosing was behind him.

He learned last week his last SAT shot had been a misfire. The night he found out, Marshall Wilson went to his room, shut the door and cried. "I didn't know what to tell my parents," he says. "I was embarrassed. I didn't know how the rest of the community would look at me."

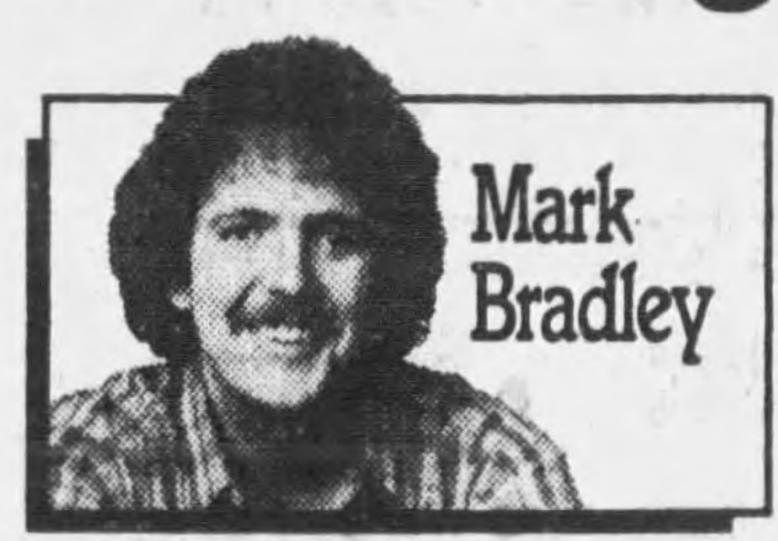
Other kids score below 700, but only athletes see their grim numbers in newsprint. Would the good people of Carnesville, knowing the Wilson kid couldn't get in UGA, think him stupid? He isn't at all, but you know how folks can be.

"I'm no trouble to anybody," Wilson sir,' and 'No, sir.' " His grades at Franklin County High were no problem. The SAT

Some people can take standardized tests. Some can't. "When I took it," Wilson says, "I'd get nervous. The first time didn't have the knowledge of how to take the test. There are ways to take it. I mean, I knew the basic stuff." Alas, he says, the way the stuff was couched on the SAT, the wording of the questions, threw him.

He took it five times. Each time got a little better, but not so much he made his 700. Seven hundred doesn't sound like a lot - on the national average, it isn't but with his immediate future hanging in the balance, mounting anxiety made it seem like Everest. His last score, he says, "wasn't that close." In retrospect, he offers this verdict on the SAT: "It's fair to some people. It's unfair to some others. If you're a good athlete and coaches want you . . . the test can be a disadvantage."

Certainly it cut him no slack. A 6-foot-7 leaper, Wilson figured to play much as a



freshman, figured to be Georgia's first sub at forward. Losing him hurts the Bulldogs, and when Georgia loses somebody, they lose him for at least two years, maybe forever. Terry Mills and Rumeal Robinson didn't make their test scores but were allowed to enroll at Michigan. They'll play this year. Same with Dwayne Davis at Florida, Greg Bell at Tennessee, Wayne Sims at LSU, Reggie Hanson at Kentucky. Same everywhere but Athens.

"This just points out the difference," says Georgia coach Hugh Durham, choosing his words carefully, "between everybody else and us." Admittedly, the policy is self-imposed, the wages of scholastic sin uncovered in the Jan Kemp tempest. Marshall Wilson knew the score. If you don't make 700, you don't get in Georgia. Nobody hid that from him. Still ... should the Marshall Wilsons of the world be penalized for something somebody else did when they were eighth-graders?

"It's frustrating," Wilson says. "If one says. "I respect everybody. I say, 'Yes, school lets you go and sit out, I don't see why they all can't."

See, Georgia was his school. He signed in November, sure of his choice. He knew the test was an obstacle, but he figured he could get over that. He knew he'd rather bank on getting in Georgia than be assured of a bunk in Knoxville or Columbia. He gambled. He lost.

There are those who'll say: If you can't hit 700 once in five tries, you shouldn't be in any college. Perhaps. But Robinson and Mills never made the mininum, and they were welcome at Michigan, no academic lightweight, last autumn. UGA's just different. Its elders have decreed that it abide by a higher standard than even the NCAA's, and coaches and athletes must live with that, however grudgingly.

"I feel pretty bad," Marshall Wilson says. "I talked to (Georgia's) coaches this week, and I told them I'd like to go to a junior college and come back to Georgia in a year. I'll go for two years if I have to. I asked them if they'll still want me. They said they would."

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