



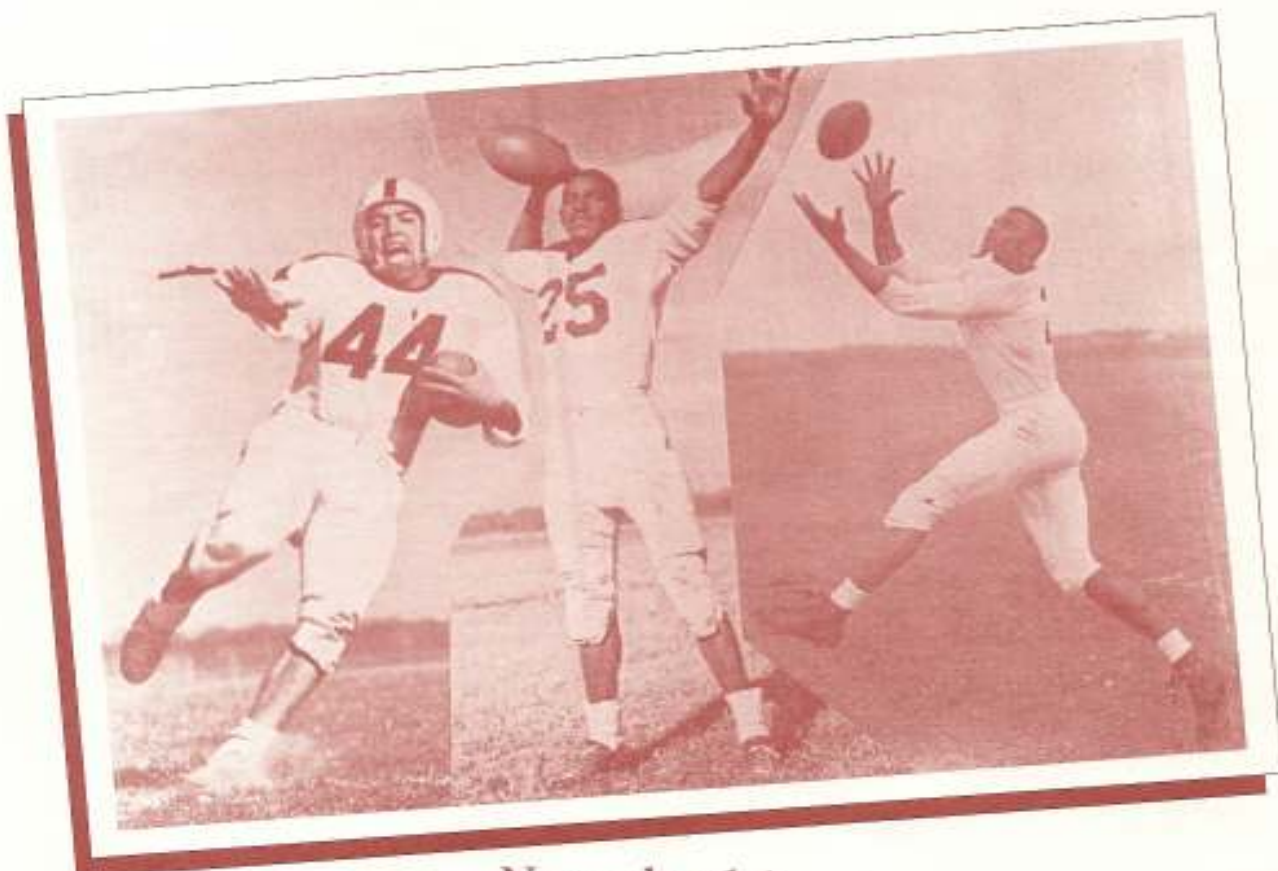
FIRST ANNUAL "SKIP" McCAIN CLASSIC

between the

MARYLAND JAGUARS

and

BALTIMORE WARRIORS



November 1st
at 1pm

Cappy Anderson Field
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Princess Anne, Maryland

\$2.00

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE SPORTS MARKETING CLUB MISSION

The mission of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) Sports Marketing Club is the promotion and improvement of campus recreation services and the marketing of the athletic program. The organization is a creation of the University's Department of Business, Management and Accounting and is designed to aid the athletic department in selling memberships to the fitness center and fundraising activities on their behalf of the ongoing effort to reinstate of an intercollegiate football program at UMES. The general agreement between the business department and the athletic department are that 20% of net income of any activity raised will be allocated to the Department of Business, Management and Accounting and the remaining to Vernon "Skip" McCain/UMES Football Reinstatement Fund and the UMES Athletic Department. These objectives are to be realized by such methods as may be deemed necessary including:

- Weekly meetings for discussion of issues of general interest including campus recreation services, the athletic programs, and other objectives that are deemed necessary in enhancing the well-being of the organization.
- Development of a relationship with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Athletic Department and other divisions of the university.
- Other methods as may be adopted by the organization.

1948 Football Team



PURPOSE

For more than a quarter of century, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) was recognized as a football powerhouse among Historical Black Colleges and Universities. From 1946 to 1970, UMES had a combined win-loss record of 154 wins, 38 losses and 6 ties, or an outstanding 77.8 percent winning percentage. Therefore, the decision to discontinue football in 1980 was a particularly painful one for the University and its Alumni.

In order to gain a complete understanding of the real significance of UMES Football it is necessary to first examine its roots. From its inception, football at UMES is about more than just college athletes. It was a part of a social movement among African-Americans that began to take hold with the advent of the Second World War. Since time in memorial, the primary function of any educational institution is to educate its constituency. It does this by sharing existing knowledge and generating new insights through

research. However, in our society colleges and universities also serve functions that are ancillary to their basic mission, and these are enormously important to those who share them.

Some examples of these ancillary functions are public service activities, developing and sustaining an interest in the fine arts, and intercollegiate football programs. In a practical sense, these programs are often the most visible and thereby serve as effective public relations vehicle for the institution. One could search at length for a theoretical justification for this linkage, but the exercise would be meaningless. The fact is that UMES football was firmly established, as part of the fabric of African-American history and culture, and it is our hope that it will continue to be in the future. The reason for this is clear. UMES football played a groundbreaking role in several areas important to both college athletics and the movement for social justice in America. The following is a brief listing of UMES firsts:

- 🦅 In 1948, UMES and Albright College played the first intercollegiate football game between an HBCU and majority-white institution.
- 🦅 In 1958, Johnny Sample (1954-1958) was the first player from a Historically Black College to play in the prestigious College All-Star Game.
- 🦅 UMES had six of its former players in the famous 1968 Super Bowl III, which pitted the mighty Baltimore Colts against the upstart New York Jets. The most players ever from one school to play in a single Super Bowl Game.
- 🦅 1989, Art Shell became the first modern-day black head coach of a NFL team. To date, Coach Shell has compiled an overall head coaching record of 54 wins and 38 losses (70.3 % winning), while guiding his teams to three playoff appearances.

It is our strong conviction that football was and remains to be a critical component of the UMES story. Further, we believe it is essential to revisit our history in order to gain a full understanding of the enormous benefits of sponsoring an intercollegiate football program to the institution, its students, its alumni and the community at-large.



John Mitchell, lb, Harold Friley and Cal Martin, vs Albright at Reading PA.

Maryland State. Maryland State and Grambling met four times — 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 — and MSU outscored the Tigers 87-8. It came as no surprise that the rivalry was never renewed.

McCain was known as a master at getting the most out of his players. Norfolk State's Bill Archie put it best: "Skip McCain could take a diamond in the rough and sell it on Wall Street." One of his gems was Sylvester "Swifty" Polk.

The Milwaukee native helped the McCain era start off with a bang. Swifty's legacy was born on a Saturday afternoon in 1949 as Maryland State played the all-white Trenton State Teachers College. With the blacks on one side and the whites on the other side, two bus loads of Maryland State police sat in the end zone, but there were no problems — just a football game.

Three plays into the game, Trenton punted and Polk took the ball on his 45-yard line and went all the way for a touchdown. This was to happen five times in the first quarter. The sixth time Trenton punted to Maryland, Swifty broke free and got all the way to the 20-yard line and slipped. He ended the first quarter with five touchdowns and 30 points, all on punt returns. Not surprisingly, he led the country in scoring that season.

Swifty never played professionally; unfortunately, societal barriers to fortune, fame and success existed and many great ones were overlooked, but the legend of Swifty brought fame and professional scouts to the Maryland State campus.

In 1957, Maryland State running back Johnny Sample and lineman Sherman Plunkett opened the doors for those who followed by becoming the first players from the school to play in the NFL. Sample completed his career at State with 2,381 yards rushing, 37 touchdowns, 42 PAT's and four field goals. The three-time All-American became the first player from a predominantly black school to play in the College All-Star game in Chicago. In the 1958 NFL draft, Sample was picked by the Baltimore Colts.

With numerous players going on to the professional ranks during his 16-year reign at Maryland State, it was obvious that Coach McCain knew how to build football players, men like Johnny Sample, Roger Brown, Sherman Plunkett, Vernon Vaughn, Emerson Boozer, Charlie Stukes and Robert Taylor are a testament to that skill.

When Coach McCain came to Maryland State in 1948, he was to serve as the head football coach, head basketball coach and athletic director. It became apparent that this man could build winners; the sport did not matter. While concentrating on his football duties, he directed the basketball team to a 76-11 record from 1948-52.

McCain was also a teacher. Growing up in days of segregation, Skip learned the value of education and preparation. He earned degrees from Langston University and Tennessee State and also earned credit hours at Northwestern, the University of New Mexico, Colorado and New Mexico State.

His love for academics was almost as passionate as his desire to win football games and he served as an assistant professor of math during his tenure at Maryland State. He taught and motivated by instilling confidence in his players. Swifty Polk fondly remembers, "Coach made it a point to come by all of the players'

Coach McCain's Year-By-Year Records

1948	7-1-0	1956	8-1-0
1949	8-0-0	1957	6-0-1
1950	8-0-0	1958	4-3-0
1951	7-1-1	1959	6-1-0
1952	8-0-0	1960	6-1-1
1953	7-1-0	1961	4-2-1
1954	6-0-1	1962	5-2-0
1955	8-0-0	1963	4-3-0

Career Record: 104-16-5

**Publisher's Note: The year-by-year records used in this story were gathered as a result of research performed with the NCAA office and the statistical staff of the NCAA. It should be noted that these records and the resulting career totals differ from the records at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. As a result of this discrepancy, the AFQ research staff along with the Sports Information Department of Maryland Eastern Shore will investigate the differences and may file an official challenge to their authenticity and correctness with the NCAA.*

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dorm rooms. He would check on your school work and he would ask for input on the team as far as strategy, practice, etc. He let us know that our opinion counted to him." McCain developed a reputation as a great builder of character. He loved to say, "Not only must you be a winner on the field, but also in the classroom."

"Coach McCain was a great guy. He was a friend, a father and a strong disciplinarian," stated former Hawk, Cal Davidson, who enjoyed a great four-year career at Maryland (1957-61), playing defensive end and wide receiver. "During that time you didn't come off the field," Davidson continued. "Coach refused to let us quit on him. I remember Coach as a winner, a firm believer in God — which he passed on to all his players — and strict. You could not miss class. Coach was no nonsense. He loved us all, but he was tough."

Vernon "Skip" McCain was definitely a legend. The fact that few people ever heard of him does not diminish his legacy. He is a legend that cannot be forgotten, designing and constructing a football program that had fans and alumni standing proud. McCain's record and legacy are somewhat overlooked partially because Maryland Eastern Shore dropped their football program after the 1979 season, but more because his records were achieved during a time when the main stream media ignored black college football.

It has been said that it is not how we end up that counts; but more importantly, how we touch and affect the lives of those we come into contact with that matters. McCain touched the lives of hundreds of young men to whom he will always be remembered simply as "Coach." **AFQ**

MARYLAND JAGUARS (HONORARY HAWKS FOR THE DAY)

Number	Player	Position
1	Tavon Sherman	RB
2	Milton Hall	RB
3	Joe Able	WR
4	Jermaine Taylor	WR
5	Justin Veny	QB
7	Raul Envo	Kicker
9	Deon Platter	RB
15	Elwood Townsend	QB
16	Anthony Rucker	QB
20	Julien Robinson	FS
22	Corey Rideout	FS
23	Xavier Brooks	FS
24	Eric Johnson	FS
25	Robert Jackson	DB
26	Marco Thomas	DB
27	Reese Fair	RB
28	Brendan Williams	SS
29	Mark Jones	SS
31	Victor Ghee	DB
34	Darnell Pearsall	RB
35	Damon Tatum	RB
42	Damon Branch	RB
50	Jerry Clark	C
52	Brian Yancey	LB
54	Donte Conner	DE
55	Eugene Gekht	LB
56	Chris Price	LB
58	Charles Wilson	LB
59	Victor Nwaucha	DE
61	Curtis Hector	DT
65	Robert Carrothers	LB
63	JerryClark	DT
67	Tomez Williams	DE
73	Tony Johnson	OL
75	Joe Johnson	OL
76	Lamont Hector	DL
77	Dominique Williams	OL
78	Carlos Harris	OL
79	Desmond Kennard	OL
81	Terril Lowery	WR
82	Jack Fritts	WR
83	Edward McCrey	WR
84	Anthony Collins	WR
87	Jermaine Boston	WR
88	Stanley Williams	WR
89	Chris Erdman	TE
91	Al Brady	DT
94	Carl Carter	DT
99	Ramon Gray	DE

Head Coach: Chris Armstrong
 Defensive Coordinator: Lavern Walker
 Athletic Trainer: Travis Marquess
 General Manager: Teresa Hicks

Asst. Head Coach: Matt Steeples
 Linebacker Coach: Robert Holmes
 Asst. General Manager: Torre Howard



(l-r) Willie Clark, HB; John Mitchell, HB and Donald Thomas, Tackle. Three of the Hawks outstanding two unit players, stop warm-ups prior to game at south Carolina State.



George Boston, fr Coach J.C. Coffee and John Mitchell, rb on their way to play Glassboro University, in New Jersey.

CONSENSUS HAWK OF THE DECADE

SYLVESTER "SWIFTY" POLK



Sylvester "Swifty" Polk was in the late forties what O.J. Simpson was to pro football the year he rushed for over 2,000 yards. Before the CIAA had any football players of note in the professional ranks, there was this fellow from Milwaukee, Wisconsin who played at a school whose entire enrollment was around 300 students. Yet, he was one of the greatest players in the history of college football. They called him "Swifty" and he wore number 44 on his jersey. Most people only saw him from the back.

Of his many feats, the one he set in 1949 stands the tallest. Maryland State played the predominantly white Trenton State Teachers College. With the Blacks on one side and the Whites on the other side two bus loads of Maryland State police sat in the end zone.

Just three plays into the game Trenton punted to Maryland and "Swifty" took the ball on his 45 yard line and went all the way for a touchdown. This was to happen 5 more times in the first quarter. The sixth time Trenton punted to Maryland State

"Swifty" got all the way to the 20 yard line and slipped, ending the first quarter with 30 points scored, all on punt returns. In 1948 he scored 5 times in 7 attempts on run backs against Morris Harvey College.

By the end of the 1949 season Polk was leading the nation with 126 points scored on 20 touchdowns and 6 points after touchdowns. 1950 Sylvester carried the ball 76 times for 1,256 yards averaging 156 yards a game and 16.4 yards per carry. This was done against schools like Dartmouth and Princeton as well. He was All American in 1947, '48 and '49.

Though he never played professionally because of an injury to his slight 160 pound frame, "Swifty" brought fame and talent scouts to Maryland campus. His great feat paved the way for many other great players from the "Hawk" rosters and all other CIAA institutions.

Sylvester resides in Milwaukee where he is Recreation Director for the Department of Parks.



1948 — All American "Swifty" Polk, Maryland State's great running back

