

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Dickinson Basketball vs. Georgetown, 1973, by Jeff Thompson

Date: 2020

Location: I-ThompsonJ-2021-1

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

Late in the season of his first collegiate coaching campaign, 1972-1973, John Thompson, Jr., head basketball coach at Georgetown University, a former Boston Celtic center during a couple NBA championship seasons in the mid 60's, brought his Hoyas to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to play Dickinson College on a special occasion, the culmination of the sports weekend observance of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Dickinson College. The game between Dickinson College and Georgetown University was played on Saturday night, February 10, 1973.

DICKINSON COLLEGE



RED DEVILS

BASKETBALL 1972-'73

*Dickinson's 200th
Anniversary Year*

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

As the insert of the game program below indicates, with the hiring of Thompson by Georgetown University President, Father Robert Henle, on March 13, 1972, Georgetown was clearly building for the future. Coach Thompson had been a very successful head coach at St. Anthony's High School in Washington D.C. Three of his high school players matriculated at Georgetown University and were playing for the Hoyas Thompson's first year.

THE DICKINSON VARSITY							
No.	Name	Class	Pos.	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
12	*Barnoski, Dick	Sr.	G	21	5-10	170	Middletown, Pa.
13	Betts, Mark	So.	G	19	6-0	160	Easton, Pa.
31	Boyer, Nick	Sr.	F	21	6-3	185	Allentown, Pa.
24	**Brunt, Guy	Sr.	F	21	6-2	180	Lansdale, Pa.
22	*Gilbert, Dan	Jr.	F	20	6-2	180	Bethlehem, Pa.
11	Gorman, George	Jr.	G	21	5-11	150	Upper Darby, Pa.
10	*Noonan, Frank	Sr.	G	21	5-3	130	Hanover, Pa.
32	*Piper, Steve	Jr.	C	20	6-8	210	Glen Rock, N.J.
30	*Thompson, Jeff	Sr.	F	21	6-5	185	Chagrin Falls, Ohio
25	Tress, Jay	Jr.	C	23	6-5	190	Upper Darby, Pa.
21	Wagner, Paul	Sr.	F	21	6-4	200	Millerstown, Pa.

COACHES: Dave Watkins, Head Coach
Paul Anderson, Assistant

* Lettermen
** Captain

GEORGETOWN VARSITY							
No.	Name	Class	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	
5	Gallagher, Mark	So.	F	6-4	190	Lynbrook, N.Y.	
11	Lambour, Tim	Jr.	F	5-8	158	Altoona, Pa.	
13	Fitzgerald, Ed	So.	G	6-2	175	Manchester, Conn.	
15	Lynn, Bill	Fr.	F	6-9	200	Washington, D.C.	
21	Stokes, Mike	Fr.	G	6-1	180	Chevy Chase, Md.	
23	Kentz, Rick	Jr.	G	6-1	170	Summit, N.J.	
25	Fletcher, Vince	Jr.	G	6-0	190	Bronx, N.Y.	
31	Smith, Jonathan	Fr.	G	6-2	185	Washington, D.C.	
33	Lyons, Ron	Jr.	F	6-7	220	Philadelphia, Pa.	
35	Wilson, Merlin	Fr.	C	6-9	210	Washington, D.C.	
43	Brooks, Greg	Fr.	F	6-6	220	Washington, D.C.	
45	Long, Aaron	Fr.	G	6-2	180	Washington, D.C.	
55	Edwards, Mark	Sr.	F	6-5	220	Washington, D.C.	

COACHES:
John Thompson, Head Coach
George Leftwich and Bill Stein, Assistants
Captain: Mark Edwards

1972 - 73 VARSITY SCHEDULE

Time	Day	Date	Opponent	Location
8:00 Mon.	Nov.	27	Rider	Away
8:00 Wed.	Nov.	29	Juniata	Away
8:00 Sat.	Dec.	2	Swarthmore	Home
7:15 Mon.	Dec.	4	Navy	Away
8:00 Thur.	Dec.	7	Lebanon Valley	Home
8:00 Sat.	Dec.	9	Washington	Away
	Jan.	3-4	Marietta Holiday Tournament at Marietta College, Ohio	
8:00 Sat.	Jan.	13	Ursinus	Home
8:00 Wed.	Jan.	17	Muhlenberg	Home
8:15 Sat.	Jan.	20	Widener	Away
8:15 Wed.	Jan.	24	Western Maryland	Away
8:30 Sat.	Jan.	27	Haverford	Away
8:00 Mon.	Jan.	29	Lycoming	Home
8:00 Thur.	Feb.	1	F & M	Home
8:00 Fri.	Feb.	9	Johns Hopkins	Home
8:00 Sat.	Feb.	10	Georgetown	Home
8:00 Tue.	Feb.	13	Gettysburg	Home
8:00 Sat.	Feb.	17	Moravian	Away
8:30 Wed.	Feb.	21	Albright	Away
8:15 Sat.	Feb.	24	Elizabethtown	Away
8:00 Tue.	Feb.	27	Bucknell	Home
	Mar.	2&3	M.A.C. at F & M College	

ABOUT TONIGHT'S GAME

Boasting three former high school All-Americans, each from St. Anthony's in the nation's capital, Georgetown brings to Alumni Gym a team building for national prominence.

Center Merlin Wilson is one of the All-Americans. He's connecting for 12.4 points a game and hauling down an average of 13 rebounds. Guard Jonathan Smith, who may be the swiftest player on the floor, is another. He's hitting for 12.1 tallies.

The other is Greg Brooks, a forward averaging 8 markers and whose 6-6 size makes him an additional threat at the boards. Their presence, along with other promising frosh, give the Hoyas hope for a bright cage future.

Noticeably out-manned, Dickinson's Red Devils will be trying to compensate with team speed and hustle.

Tonight's game closes out the "Sports Weekend" observance of Dickinson's 200th anniversary. We salute the new Hall of Fame inductees, Joseph F. Lipinski, M.D., '33, Peter Sivess, '36 and John D. Hopper, '48.

Along with a fine recruiting class, Thompson's one assistant coach was his old high school teammate, D.C. basketball legend George Leftwich. Leftwich and Thompson teamed up at Archbishop Carroll to win fifty-five straight games in high school. Some still consider their team the finest prep team ever in the D.C. area. An auto accident during Leftwich's stellar collegiate career at Villanova ruined his chances at the NBA, even though he was drafted. Leftwich instead became a teacher and coach. He retired a couple years ago as A.D. of his alma mater, Archbishop Carroll. But that night in 1973, Coach Leftwich was in Carlisle, Pa.

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

The other assistant coach John Thompson brought to Georgetown that year, Bill Stein, had been a teammate of his in college. Stein played basketball and baseball at Providence College and graduated from PC in 1964. Coach Stein was John's assistant for ten years at Georgetown. Stein also served as one of John Thompson's assistant coaches for the U. S. Olympic basketball team in 1988. Coach Stein left Georgetown in 1982 to become the Athletic Director of St. Peter's in New Jersey, serving in that capacity for twenty-six years. Coach Stein recalled that he was scouting a future opponent that Saturday evening, so he didn't make the trip to Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Dickinson College was ably coached by Penn State graduate, Dave Watkins, and assistant coach, Paul Anderson, who moonlighted as the college's Registrar.

The intimate Alumni Gymnasium of Dickinson College was overflowing with curious onlookers that night; people were literally packed to the rafters. The Dickinson College student newspaper, "*The Dickinsonian*," remarked a year earlier that basketball was the most popular sport on campus and often played in front of packed houses, "*The Carlisle Sentinel*" estimated the crowd that night at 2,000 individuals, well over capacity.

Seven high school recruits attended the game to look at Dickinson College, including Jim Johnston, Billy Hutton and John Carroll. All seven of those recruits came to Dickinson College, no doubt smitten by the atmosphere of the evening. Johnston and Hutton each went on to amass 1,000 career points at Dickinson. For a while they were first and second in career Dickinson College scoring. John Carroll, who scored seven hundred some points from his point guard position, made his mark as a college coach. In addition to his college coaching career, which included A10 Coach of the Year honors while at Duquesne, Coach Carroll was the interim head coach of the Boston Celtics for thirty-six games, at the end of the 2003-2004 NBA campaign. Jimmy Johnston, inducted into the Dickinson College Hall of Fame, is currently an attorney on the "Main Line" of suburban Philadelphia. Billy Hutton, a Cumberland Valley, Mechanicsburg, Pa. High School grad., spent his professional life as a teacher, principal and school superintendent in Alaska and is now a fishing guide in both Florida and Alaska.

Georgetown University opened the game as expected, with a bucket by one of their freshmen high school All-Americans, Jonathan Smith. Smith was the Hoyas leader in points per game that season and scored 1,255 over four years. After Georgetown, Jonathan Smith went on to a career in the State Department.

Smith's basket was followed by another by Mark Gallagher, a 6'4" Sophomore, and the Hoyas were up by four. Gallagher, from Archbishop Malloy High School in New York City, was the top recruit

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

at Georgetown in 1971 and the only player from the Freshmen team [JV's] the year before to join the Georgetown Varsity that season. Named to the all-tourney team in the St. Louis Classic, where he scored twenty points vs. Army, Gallagher also scored 24 points in a romp over Bill Raftery's Seton Hall five that year and averaged 8.4 points per game and 5.4 rebounds per game for the season. Due to injuries, the 1972-73 season was to be Gallagher's only varsity campaign. After his undergraduate days at Georgetown, Gallagher earned a law degree from Fordham and became an attorney, as did two others on the Georgetown bench who did not play that evening, Ed Fitzgerald and Rick Kentz.

Dickinson's Dick Barnoski was fouled in the act of shooting and canned one of two free throws to open the Red Devil scoring at 18:36. After a defensive stop, Dickinson regained possession and Jeff Thompson was fouled on a drive from the left wing as he tossed in a running tear drop, half hook through the net from ten feet out for the Red Devils first basket. That bucket and subsequent successful foul shot knotted the game at four apiece, two and a half minutes into the contest.

Georgetown strongman Greg Brooks, a 6'6", 220-pound high school All American, also a Freshman, hit a bucket that was answered by Dickinson point guard Frank Noonan, who became an osteopathic physician in Lancaster County, Pa. That basket kept the score tied. Dick Barnoski, who was to graduate from Dickinson with honors, work with what is now a Big Four accounting firm and subsequently retire from Hershey Foods decades later, put Dickinson on top for the first time at 8-6, with a deuce at the 14:28 mark. A couple free throws by Brooks and a couple field goals by Gallagher gave the lead back to Georgetown, 12-8.

At about that time, Dickinson's Senior point guard and playmaker, Frank Noonan, was inadvertently knocked out by the 6'9" Merlin Wilson. Noonan, a tremendous ballhandler, penetrator and outside shooter with unlimited range, stood only 5'3". His diminutive stature attracted the youth of Carlisle to our games those years 'en masse,' the likes of Pat Dieter, Dave Evans, Joe Stasyszyn, Perry Owens, and a legion of younger kids, some of whom led Carlisle High School to four consecutive PIAA state basketball titles in the mid 80's. Noonan was billed as the smallest college starter in the nation. That height earned him a spot on the popular TV show, *To Tell the Truth*, and a trip to New York City his Sophomore year. Noonan and Dick Barnoski, a *Harrisburg Patriot News* 'Big 15' high school alumnus of Pa Class B state champion Middletown High School and Noonan's sidekick at guard for Dickinson for three seasons, had the ability with their quickness, footwork and defensive anticipation to draw a charge on opponent's guards as well as any college tandem. While Noonan was defending the Georgetown ball handler at about half court and intent on taking a charge on yet another Hoya, his head collided with

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

Merlin Wilson's hipbone via a well-placed legal screen by Wilson. Frankie Noonan was out of the game for several minutes after that collision.

Mark Betts, a 6'0" Sophomore from Easton, Pa., entered the game for the Red Devils. Betts contributed defensively and with the ballhandling chores but did not score in the game. His only mark in the box score was one personal foul. Junior Tim Lambour, an honorable mention Pennsylvania all state guard when he helped shoot his Bishop Guilfoyle High School team to victory in the Class A Catholic championship in 1970, had a similar goose egg in the scorebook for the Hoyas. Lambour, who played all four years for Georgetown, the last two under Coach Thompson as he helped initiate the younger players into the rigors of college ball, was the consummate distributor in college. His 5.05 assists per game for his career place him above Allen Iverson in the Georgetown record books. Tim Lambour started every game for the Hoyas that season, leading the team in assists and steals. Coach Thompson once said about Lambour that he was, "all hustle and guts." Lambour was whistled for five fouls in this contest.

Two more field goals by Greg Brooks, and a free throw and bucket by Dickinson's Jeff Thompson, rounded out the scoring for the first ten minutes. At that point it was Georgetown up 16-11.

Dickinson's sixth man, 6'3" Dickinson Junior Danny Gilbert, came off the bench and into the picture. Dan provided instant offense for the Red Devils with a bucket and two made free throws. Gilbert's flurry brought the Devils back within one point, 16-15, at the 8:22 mark. Hoya reserve Ron Lyons hit on a power move and was fouled. Lyon's three-point play was his only offensive production for the evening. It put Georgetown up four again. Lyons is an interesting story. He had been Georgetown's first junior college transfer. The 6'7", two hundred twenty-pound, Junior was a Philadelphia native who came to the Hoyas the season before. Lyons lost playing time to John Thompson's recruits and left Georgetown after that season to play pro basketball in France. And, talk about scripting, Lyons, whose nickname was "Hollywood" while at Georgetown, became a 6'9" actor, with a role in a Robert De Niro film and a TV show guest appearance to his credit.

After Dick Barnoski drained a field goal for the Devils, Mike Stokes, a 6'1" Freshman guard from Chevy Chase, Maryland, got into the action for the Hoyas with two field goals, making it 23-17, in favor of Georgetown, with 6:28 left. Stokes was considered the best pure shooter on that Georgetown squad, averaging 9.0 points per game for the season. Inexplicably, Stokes left the Georgetown squad after just five games the next season.

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

The ensuing Dickinson run, a bucket by Frank Noonan, a free throw by Dickinson College captain Guy Brunt and one from Dick Barnoski, and two hoops from Danny Gilbert, put the Devils ahead, 25-23.

Then Junior reserve Vince Fletcher got into the act, recording his first basket. Fletcher, a New York City upperclassman, played his high school ball at DeWitt Clinton in NYC. He was the leading returning scorer from the (1971-1972) previous year's team at Georgetown, averaging 11.8 ppg.

Fletcher's basket was countered by three consecutive field goals by 5'3" Frank Noonan, making the score 31-27 Dickinson, with 1:45 left in the half. Fletcher hit a free throw, Guy Brunt countered with two successful charity tosses, and 6'9" Frosh and high school All American, Merlin Wilson, canned one of his two buckets for the evening, with 1:16 left in the half.

Merlin Wilson was the first major recruit of the John Thompson-era. Coached by John Thompson at St. Anthony's, Wilson and his high school teammate, Jonathan Smith, were named as seniors to *The Washington Post's* All-Metropolitan Squad. After Merlin Wilson signed to Georgetown, Coach Thompson commented:

"He's an exceptionally mobile big man. He'll be the key person in the pivot and he makes an outlet pass on the fast break as well as anyone I've seen and that includes the pros."

Wilson was the first of several outstanding John Thompson, Jr.'s trademark Hoya centers. In the Georgetown record books, Wilson ranks second all-time in career rebounds and first in rebound per game average (11.4) and is one of only three Georgetown players to average in double figures for scoring and rebounding. After leading Georgetown to two successive NCAA appearances, Merlin Wilson was drafted by the NBA. He chose to play professionally in Europe and South America for several years.

Wilson, who finished his rookie season in 1972-73 as Georgetown's leader in points and rebounds, had nineteen rebounds but only scored five points against Dickinson that evening, as he and the Red Devils big man, 6'8" Junior, Steve Piper, battled each other to a virtual scoring draw. Piper received help from Dickinson's 6'4" (Paul) Rich Wagner, an Atlanta Braves 5th round draft choice in 1973 [#106 overall that year in the MLB draft, Wagner played minor league baseball for the Atlanta franchise the ensuing summer before hanging up his spikes to enter Dickinson Law School and begin the journey culminating in his career as a Harrisburg, Pa., attorney].

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

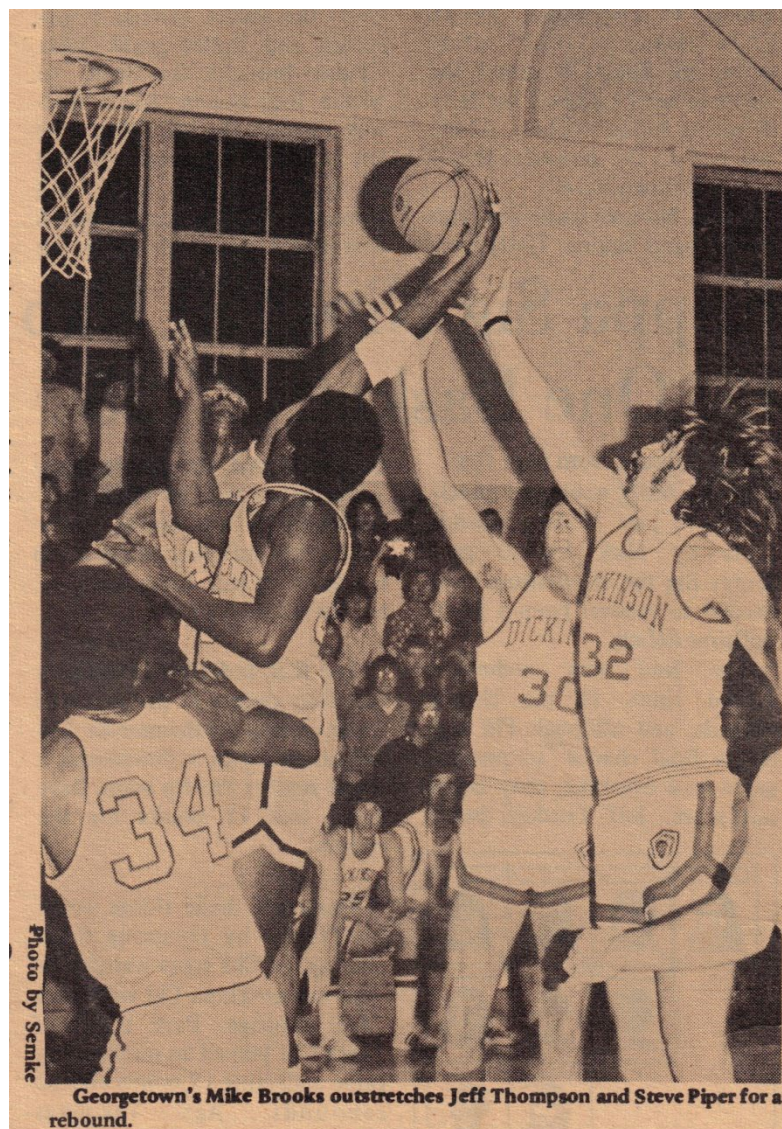
Jonathan Smith and Dick Barnoski traded buckets in the penultimate minute of the first half. Mark Edwards and Gilbert each hit two foul shots for their respective squads in the last minute of action, rounding out the first half scoring and making the score 37-32 Dickinson at the intermission.

Mark Edwards, standing 6'5" and weighing two hundred twenty pounds, was a Senior, hailing from Washington D.C. Edwards was an English major at Georgetown. He became a playwright and producer of plays. Edwards was the Hoyas third leading scorer as a Junior, averaging 10.8 points per game, and the second leading rebounder for the Hoyas that year. He was one of two DeMatha grads that Coach Thompson inherited. He was also the second African American to play at Georgetown and their first big time recruit. Displaced by Thompson's Freshmen, Mark Gallagher and Greg Brooks, Edwards averaged a mere 3.2 points per game in '72-'73. Hard to tell if Edwards' DeMatha background was a reason for his displacement. Nonetheless, both Fletcher and Edwards were especially effective offensively, scoring eight points each in the second half, their total being nearly half of Georgetown's total point production in that half.

The legendary DeMatha High School coach, Morgan Wooten, an archrival of Coach John Thompson's in the DC basketball world, was a finalist for the Georgetown job when Thompson was offered the position (and according to Mark Edwards in his interview on Georgetown class of '84's Gene Smith's Hoya Locker Room Podcast, Episode 78, so was Jack Ramsey, who went on to a great run in The NBA coaching ranks). Wooten's successes led to his induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame the year after John Thompson was enshrined. But despite the proximity of the perennial national high school basketball power to Georgetown University, or maybe because of the intense rivalry between Wooten and Thompson, no subsequent DeMatha graduate ever played for Coach Thompson.

The other DeMatha grad. on the Georgetown roster at the start of the 1972-1973 season was Don Willis, a 1970 alumnus of DeMatha. Willis had some shining moments in the 1971-1972 season, including 26 points against Holy Cross, but recurring knee problems ended his college career in the '72-'73 season. Willis only played in six games and averaged 2.8 points per game for Thompson and was not listed on the roster when Georgetown came to Carlisle that evening.

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown



Jay Tress, #25, pictured on the bench through the rebounders DNP-CD. Tress was one of nine dressed for Dickinson Varsity that night. For Georgetown on the boards, #34 was the 6'9" Merlin Wilson, #32 was 6'7" Ron Lyons, and #40 with his hand on the ball was the 6'6" 220 lbs., Greg (not Mike) Brooks. The picture was taken by Walter Semke, Dickinson class of 1973, for "The Dickinsonian."

As a result of the foul trouble incurred by the Dickinson front line from battling with the Georgetown plethora of 'bigs' in the first half, Rich Wagner replaced the Dickinson starting center, Steve Piper, who had three fouls at halftime, for the second half tip off. Paying early dividends, Wagner hit the first bucket of the second half to put Dickinson up 39-32. A field goal by Jeff Thompson increased the lead to 41-32, with 18:51 left in the game. Three seconds later, a fast break bucket by muscular Greg Brooks, giving him double digit points for the game, was to be his last scoring for the evening. That basket and a foul shot by Jonathan Smith cut the Dickinson lead to 41-35.

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

It was not long after that Smith foul shot that Danny Gilbert, the leading scorer for the game in the first half, was hurt in a tussle with Bill Lynn, a 6'9" Freshman and future Hoya luminary. Lynn played backup to Gallagher that year. He did not score in this game but did ring up one personal foul. The following season he averaged 13 points per game and 8 rebounds per game, and after four years at Georgetown, Lynn became the third Thompson recruit to score 1,000 points for his career.



Danny Gilbert, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Dickinson in 1974 pictured here in the Dickinson yearbook, for a long time claimed the blur from the Hoyas was a picture of Bill Lynn blocking his shot in that game, just before he dislocated his shoulder tussling with Lynn in jam-packed Alumni Gymnasium and was lost for the season. The obscured scoreboard read: Dickinson 4?, Georgetown 35, with 17:23 left in the game. Gilbert, with a PhD from the Univ. of Minnesota, retired as a Professor of Ethics and Management at Gettysburg College. In retrospect, the blurred #3? on the jersey of the defender in this picture might have come from Jonathan Smith, a 6'2" guard, #30, not #14, Bill Lynn. But Jonathan Smith was a guard with a football physique, so it most likely was not him. The defender could have been the 6'7" Ron Lyons, whose jersey number that night, #32, also started with the number three. Others claim it was the big man for Georgetown seemingly in flight, Merlin Wilson, #34, a prolific shot blocker, who most fit this profile.

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

After Danny headed off to veteran trainer Bruce Vogelsong and out of the action, field goals by Dick Barnoski and Rich Wagner pushed the lead out to ten, 45-35, with 16:04 left in the game. Dickinson was not to score again for nearly four minutes. Mark Edwards hit two successive baskets and sharpshooter Mike Stokes hit another in the Hoyas 6-0 run, cutting the Devil lead to four with 12:51 left in the half. Steve Piper scored a huge basket for Dickinson ending the mini drought. It was countered by the last of Merlin Wilson's five points for the evening. In a twenty second span, Devil's Jeff Thompson scored a basket and Jonathan Smith countered with two hoops, making the score, 49-47 Dickinson, with 9:54 left in the game. Frank Noonan's two free throws made in 51-47, but they were quickly answered by Georgetown with baskets from Mark Edwards and Jonathan Smith, which tied the game at 51-51, with 8:41 left in the contest.



In this pic Guy Brunt is attempting the front end of a one plus one in the second half. To the left of the official's right upraised arm you can see a man on the Georgetown bench with a white towel over his shoulder. That was Coach John Thompson. That towel became his Hoya trademark. The two number 30's on the near side of the foul lane are Jonathan Edwards and the author (Jeff Thompson). On the far side Mike Stokes has his hands raised and who I believe to be Vince Fletcher can be made out over my elbow and shoulder. Photo credit to John Bustard, Dickinson class of 1973.

From that point on, according to the account scribed in the official scorebook by class of 1973 alumnus, Gerald Greenberg (a future Harvard Law school grad), the lead changed hands eleven times. A free throw by Smith gave the Hoyas their first lead for over twenty minutes of game time, 52-51. Guy Brunt, a four year letterman and 6'2" defender with a sweet jay and very good hops, gave the lead back to Dickinson with a timely basket. That was countered by Smith on the following possession, giving the Hoyas a one-point advantage, 54-53, with 7:56 to play. Jeff Thompson was fouled in the act of shooting and hit both. Now it was Dickinson, 55-54. A lightning quick basket response by Vince Fletcher gave Georgetown the lead once again. At 3:53, Jeff Thompson was fouled going to the hole and again converted both foul shots, for a 57-56 Dickinson edge. Fletcher hit two free throws to make the score

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

Georgetown 58, Dickinson 57, with 3:32 remaining. Dick Barnoski and Jonathan Smith hit clutch baskets resulting in two more lead changes. Georgetown was now on top, 60-59. Edwards extended the Georgetown margin to three with a hoop. Brunt hit from the outside for two and Noonan followed with a basket at 1:40, to put Dickinson in front once again, 63-62. Two clutch free throws by Barnoski extended Dickinson's edge to three, 65-62, with 55 seconds remaining.

After Georgetown's ensuing empty possession, Dickinson got the ball back. With 45 seconds left and Dickinson up three, Frank Noonan was fouled. Money for the last three years from the foul line late, Noonan had polished off numerous games with his clutch foul shooting in just such a situation. [Frank Noonan was also unerringly accurate from long range. Nearly every outside shot he took in his career would have been a long three in today's game.] As shown below, Noonan finished in the top five in the nation in the college division for foul shooting percentage the previous season. But this time he uncharacteristically missed the front end of the one-and-one.

FREE THROW PERCENTAGE				
(Minimum 95 free throws scored)				
	G	FT	FTA	Pct.
Kunz, St. Norbert	25	142	155	.916
Miller, Otterbein	24	108	123	.878
Chimino, Ill. Benedictine	25	195	223	.874
Quattrocchi, Albany St., NY	23	131	153	.856
Noonan, Dickinson	24	113	132	.856
McCowan, Prairie View	25	106	124	.855
Haas, Biscayne	27	122	143	.853
Ganley, Clarkson	19	109	128	.852
Gill, LSU N.O.	28	100	118	.847
Twardzik, Old Dominion	24	174	206	.845

Table from the 1973 Official Basketball Guide, page 95.

After the unsuccessful one and one, Vince Fletcher brought the ball downcourt and hit a tough pull up jumper with 40 seconds left. With the game clock running down, Dickinson turned the ball over on the sidelines on the following possession. In front of the over 2,000 fans packed into Alumni gym, which comfortably seated 800 fans at best, a pull-up baseline jump shot by Vince Fletcher, with three seconds remaining in the game (the "Harrisburg Patriot" reported that there were five seconds left, but other accounts said four seconds and the home scorebook, scribed by Gerald Greenberg, read the goal was scored with three seconds remaining) gave Georgetown a one-point lead. The inbounds pass from team captain Guy Brunt went to Steve Piper. Piper's desperation heave missed the mark at the buzzer and Georgetown escaped Alumni Gymnasium with a 66-65 win.

To some, Vince Fletcher, a 6'1" guard from DeWitt Clinton High School in New York City, was a most unlikely hero that night. Fletcher lettered two years at Georgetown, 1971-72 and 1972-73. He was the second leading scorer on the team in 71-72, but saw his playing time diminish in 1972-1973, as Coach Thompson's recruits began to take over. Fletcher only scored 110 points and averaged just 5.0 points per game for the 1972-73 season, but he had performed this end of game magic previously. In

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

1971-72, Fletcher stole the ball twice and finished two layups in the last couple minutes of a frantic comeback against Holy Cross that came up just short. Nevertheless, his double digit scoring and last-minute clutch play for the victory in Carlisle was undoubtedly his finest moment for Coach John Thompson.

Dick Barnoski, Frank Noonan, Jr. and Jeff Thompson, who also garnered eleven rebounds for the games only double-double, all scored fourteen points each to lead Dickinson, while 6'2" Freshman Hoya guard Jonathan Smith, one of three high school All-Americans from the year before playing for Georgetown, took game scoring honors with 16 points.

According to Coach Thompson, Georgetown's improbable comeback, the steal and Fletcher's winning baseline jumper with three seconds left, saved his fledgling college coaching career. That story was recounted by Dickinson College Coach Gene Evans in the mid '80's. Legendary coaching legend, Eastern League basketball playing alumnus, a member of the Dickinson Hall of Fame and the individual for whom the Carlisle High School Gymnasium is named, 'clean' Gene Evans, asked the author to speak to the players on his team at the Dickinson College end of the year basketball banquet at that time [mid '80's], held at an all you can eat, smorgasbord restaurant in Thurmont, Maryland. Evan's moniker and reputation as a straight shooter was earned for the veracity with which he spoke.

Coach Evans, in way of my introduction, told his team a little about the history of Dickinson basketball. That history began with Richard McAndrew. Mac came to Dickinson College in 1911 as a trainer. Known as 'Pringle' Dick McAndrew when he was a legendary baseball player in that west end of Wilkes Barre, at LVC and professionally as a catcher for four years, 'Mac' worked with the football team, took over the baseball team in 1918 and was the head coach of the Dickinson basketball team from 1919 through 1947. Mac is the undeniable father of Dickinson Basketball, attracting a plethora of Dickinson sports legends from his home area, the 'coal region,' including Ben James, Gene Evans and Frank Noonan, Sr., from nearby Plymouth. When Dickinson moved into Alumni Gymnasium in 1929, Mac, who was perhaps the earliest proponent of the zone defense, the same defense employed by Evans in the 1980's at Dickinson, took a streak of forty-four straight home victories into the new gym. Dickinson's conquest of CCNY, in a game during the 1925-6 season, for the coach then known as Richard H. MacAndrews or McAndrews, was CCNY's first home loss since 1919. Dickinson finished with a 15-2 record and was a team Mac considered his finest. Georgetown was one of two blemishes for Mac and Dickinson in 1925-26 as the Hoyas also beat Dickinson that season.

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

That evening at the banquet in Maryland, Coach Evans told his players that every generation seemed to have a game of great magnitude like that CCNY game. One of those was his own squad's battle, with Mac's assistant, Charles "Chick" Kennedy, in his first year at the helm at Dickinson, with a tremendous Columbia University squad in December of 1947 at Alumni Gymnasium.

Carlisle, Dec. 20. — Columbia registered its sixth consecutive victory here last evening by defeating Dickinson 48 to 46. The defeat was the first suffered by Dickinson this season.

A crowd of 1500 saw Columbia hold a 12-point edge early in the final period. However, Dickinson began to click and narrowed the margin down to 47-46.

In the preliminary game the Dickinson jayvees topped the Harrisburg Area College, 73-18.

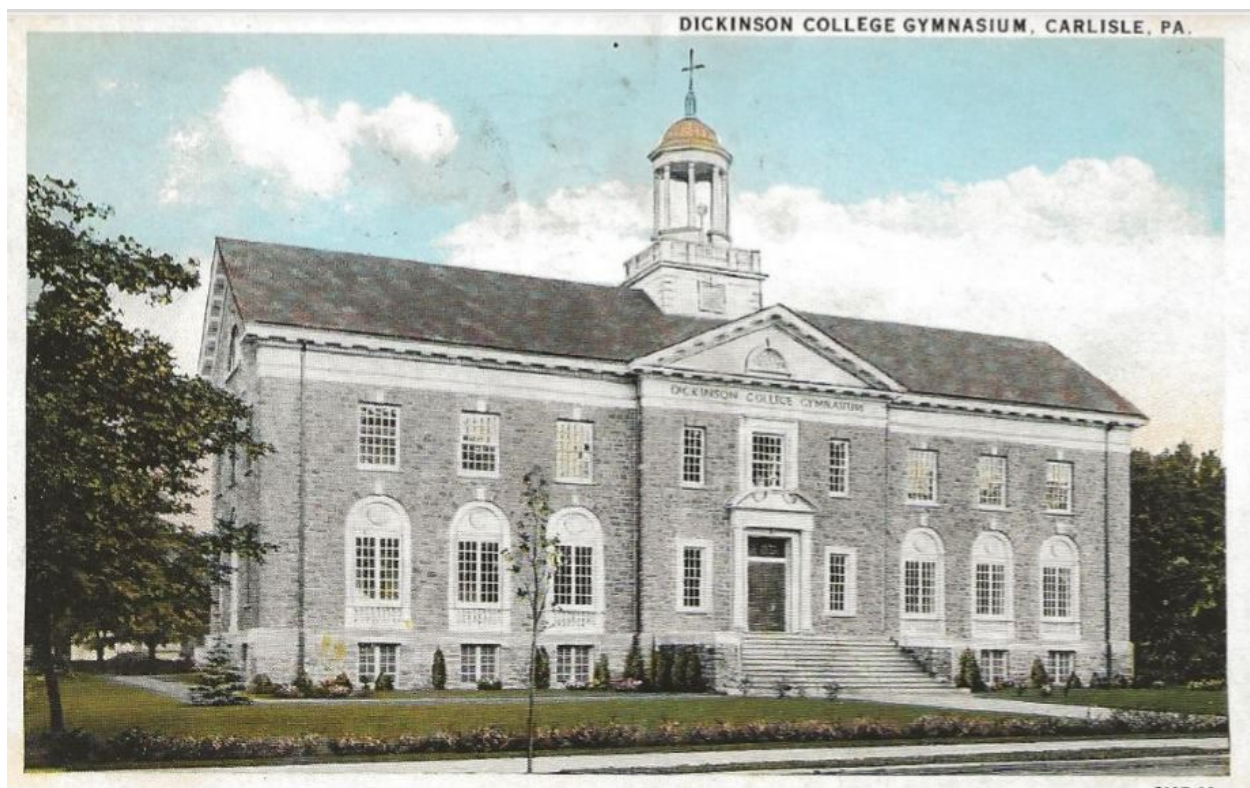
Dickinson			Columbia		
	G.	F. P.		G.	F. P.
Hopper, f.	9	4 23	Vogel, f.	3	4 10
Noonan, f.	3	2 8	Skinner, f.	6	1 13
Schaf'ister, c	1	2 4	Wood, f.	0	0 0
Pooley, c	1	2 4	Budko, c	3	7 13
Overholt, g.	0	1 1	Marshall, g.	4	2 10
Evans, g.	3	1 7	Kaplan, g.	1	0 2
Totals	17	12 46	Totals	17	14 48
Score by periods:					
Dickinson		8 10 14		14	46
Columbia		9 16 15		8	48

Dickinson's Alumni Gymnasium was also packed that night, with 1500 in attendance, in the contest that saw the Red Devils lose by a bucket. John Hooper, who was honored at halftime of the Georgetown game with his induction into the Dickinson Hall of Fame, scored twenty-one in that game. All five Dickinson starters from that evening are enshrined in the Dickinson Hall of Fame. The sixth man, big Jim Pooley from Chester, would have undoubtedly been inducted into the Hall as well for his prowess in football and basketball for the Red Devils, but he transferred to Wheaton College after the season. Hooper's teammates, including Gene Evans and Frank Noonan, the father of Frank Noonan of '73, were all in attendance for this Georgetown Hall of Fame game in 1973.

Coach Evans recounted to his players in Thurmont, Maryland, that Georgetown Coach John Thompson, Jr., talked about Dickinson College on his weekly radio/TV show on Washington station, WTTG, a decade after this legendary Dickinson game with Georgetown. That was the year the Hoyas were reigning as national champs. When Thompson was asked on his show about the toughest place he ever took his team to play, Coach Thompson said that fans probably wouldn't believe it, especially after winning the national championship, but that night and game at Alumni Gymnasium in Carlisle in 1973, struggling in his first season record-wise with a very young team, coming upstairs into the gym with his players from an aging locker room into an overall antiquated facility in the midst of a bicentennial

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

celebration with the stands packed to the rafters, provided him [and Georgetown] with his most difficult venue.



Dickinson's Alumni Gymnasium, opened in 1929, was the venue for the Georgetown game. The basketball court was on the second floor. The last game in Alumni was Feb. 1980. The renovated facility is now the Emil R. Weiss Center for the Arts.

Going into the Georgetown matchup, Coach Dave Watkins' Dickinson ball club had an 8-2 record in the conference and an 11-5 overall record (losing to major college opponents Navy and Rider and being upset in a Christmas tourney in Ohio out of conference). Their strength of schedule and team performance was reflected in their Dunkel rating. The Dunkel College Basketball Index was a statistical measure of comparative strength that those who believed in book followed obsessively in those days. Comparing the final ratings (in late February for each season) the 1972-73 Dickinson College team attained the highest Dunkel rating, on February 26, 1973 [41.8], of any Red Devil squad at the end of the season from 1950 through 1991, when the Las Vegas oddsmakers supplanted this service in most newspapers.

Although the Red Devils were to qualify and play in the MAC playoffs, and had beaten a good major college team in the MAC University Division a week after Georgetown in Gettysburg College [the Bullets deemphasized their program when NCAA colleges split from the major college or university vs.

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

small college delineations for the 1974-75 season into Divisions I, II and III and Gettysburg declared DIII] the season ending injury to sixth-man Gilbert in the Georgetown game diminished the Red Devils depth and chances for the overall league title, as well as a better shot at a Jim Valvano coached Bucknell team. Bucknell was a squad Dickinson had vanquished in Lewisburg the year before in OT for Dickinson College's last men's basketball victory against a major college opponent who remained DI [thanks to Paul Schreiber, class of '72, with a last second shot to send the game into OT]. Dickinson lost 61-54 to Valvano and Bucknell in their last home game of that '72-'73 season.

Guy Brunt, our team captain, still feels pangs of remorse as he remembers the turnover at half court leading to Fletcher's heroics. Brunt, who spent the better part of his professional career at Capital Blue Cross ending as a Senior Director of Development, guarded 6'8" Junior, Bill Jews, of Johns Hopkins, the previous evening in a crucial win for Dickinson College, a win that qualified the team for the MAC Southern Division playoffs.



Bill Jews, from a picture in the Baltimore Business Review 2013

The William Jews story is quite remarkable in itself. Tall, strong, athletic and with a fine shooting touch, Jews had the opportunity to play major college basketball but chose to attend Johns Hopkins because he wanted to become a doctor. Jews was an all MAC player for three years. After his graduation from JHU, Jews went into the health care profession. William 'Bill' Jews, like our captain, Guy Brunt, who guarded him the night before the Georgetown game, affiliated with the Blues in his health care business career, eventually becoming the CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland. Jews was granted an \$18,000,000.00 severance after his successful resuscitation of BC/BS there.

Unfortunately for the Red Devils, the magic fell just three (or four) seconds short on that February night in 1973 against the Hoyas. But the success of the Georgetown College basketball team with John Thompson, Jr., at the helm, was only beginning. The second straight baseline jumper by Vince Fletcher in that last three seconds of play was a watershed moment for the Georgetown Basketball program, even as it spoiled the end of the sports weekend celebration of the 200th anniversary of the

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

founding of Dickinson College, especially for those of us who felt we had almost slain another major college. The basketball program at Georgetown University, under future Hall-of-Fame coach John Thompson, Jr., was soon to be a basketball goliath. The germination of that success could very well have been that night in Carlisle, their near escape providing motivational fodder for Thompson for many years.



Cagers Lose Heartbreaker On Last Second Shot, 66-65

TEAM		DISCONSOL	PLACE OF GAME	CARLEVILLE	DATE	FEB 10, 1973	ATTENDANCE	37	66
SCORES		DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL
POS	NO	FOULS	PLAYER	FIRST HALF	SECOND HALF	POINTS	REBOUNDS	ASSISTS	STARS
10	10	1	ANDRAU	XXXXX	X	6	12	3	2
12	12	1	BRADY	XXX	XX	5	10	4	1
14	14	1	ROBERT	XX	XX	2	4	3	5
16	16	1	THOMAS	XX	XX	4	10	6	11
18	18	1	DAVE	X	XX	1	7	0	1
20	20	1	SINGAR	XX	XX	2	3	0	1
22	22	1	CHUBERT	XXX	XX	3	7	4	5
24	24	1	WELL			0	1	0	1
26	26	1	TOOK			0	0	0	0
TOTALS		13		11-16		23	59	22	53

TEAM		DISCONSOL	SCORES	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL	DISCONSOL
POS	NO	FOULS	PLAYER	FIRST HALF	SECOND HALF	POINTS	REBOUNDS	ASSISTS	STARS
10	10	1	LAMBSON	XXX		0	0	0	0
12	12	1	GALLAGHER	XX		3	0	0	2
14	14	1	SMITH	X	XXXXX	7	2	4	4
16	16	1	WALSH	X	XX	2	1	3	5
18	18	1	BRADY	XX	XX	3	4	6	2
20	20	1	BRADY	XX	XX	1	7	0	1
22	22	1	BRADY	XX	XX	0	0	0	1
24	24	1	BRADY	XX	XX	0	0	0	1
26	26	1	BRADY	XX	XX	3	0	4	2
28	28	1	BRADY	XX	XX	1	1	2	1
30	30	1	BRADY	XX	XX	3	4	5	4
TOTALS		11		18-16		26	19	26	27

The home team box score from 10Feb1973.

A year and a month after that game, Coach Thompson traveled to Waynesboro, Pa. to watch a JuCo (Junior College) player from Northampton Community College, Bill Thomas, play in the finals of the Waynesboro Y Hi Tournament, a rec touney that had been a fixture in that southern Pennsylvania community since the early 1950's. Previous MVP's of the touney included Gene Shue, a UMaryland

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown

product who played for years in the NBA and then coached successfully in the league, Marvin "the Human Eraser" Webster, an NBA star from HBCU Morgan State, were he led the NCAA D2 champs in 1974 and Henry Carlton, a.k.a. Charles "Knocks" Carlton, the first high school 1,000 point scorer in midstate Pa. history. Carlton played for William Penn Harrisburg, Pa., HS in the 1950's, and was a starter on the (HBCU) Tennessee A & I State team, the first HBCU team to win a national title. They were coached by the illustrious Hall of Fame coach John McClendon, a fast break adherent, whom John Thompson, Jr. greatly admired (and championed to his players). Tennessee A & I won three consecutive NAIA titles from 1957-1959, during Carlton's Soph., Jr. and Sr. years (Henry was also the father of the current AD of Penn State Harrisburg, Rahsaan Carlton, who lettered four years in basketball and at Penn State).

Though Thompson was in the process of turning Georgetown into a brand in the wider African American community and throughout the nation as a basketball power, he struggled to gain acceptance in DC the first couple years. According to Father Henle in the Post article of 1976, Thompson wanted to make certain that the early Georgetown team was racially diverse. Coach Thompson found Dickinson assistant, Paul Anderson, in the Waynesboro gym that March evening and the two sat together during the modestly attended rec. finals a few rows behind the bench. Thomas' team included a trio of relatively recent Dickinson basketball alumni, Al Vican, Paul Schreiber, and Jeff Thompson and John "Slab" Smith, a Steel High and Shippensburg College high scoring alumnus. Though Thomas' team lost that game, Coach Thompson offered him a two-year scholarship to Georgetown.

Dr. Norm Curfman decided to back a team called Letterkenny from last season, he knew what he was doing. The club is doing well in the Community Basketball League and took second place in the Hi-Y tourney in Waynesboro, losing the past week-end in the finals to the Frederick Barons. 94-87. The team members did well, some getting awards. Alan Vican was named first team, outstanding offensive player, best shot, highest number of points and best sportsman. Jeff Thompson was named first team and Bill Thomas got an assist award as well as second team.

Bill Thomas made second team all tourney at this Waynesboro tourney in March 1974, as this blurb in the Chambersburg Public Opinion attests, when he was recruited by Coach Thompson.

I was a proud fan of the Hoyas when the article below ran in the Washington Post a couple years later with a picture of Thomas. Bill told his hometown friend and former rec teammate, Paul Schreiber, that Coach Thompson often referenced the Dickinson game, always with an admonition that this would never happen again, and usually when he was castigating his squad. Vowing he would never step foot in Alumni Gymnasium again, Coach Thompson never did. With a new cast of players Dickinson traveled the next three years to McDonough arena, losing to the Hoyas, 65-53, 102-60 and 95-79.

Dickinson College's 200th Anniversary; a bittersweet hoops ending for the Red Devils that provided Carlisle a glimpse of a future national power, the Hoyas of Georgetown



Washington Post 10 March 1976, Georgetown and Big John with Bill Thomas filling lanes

Jesse Washington wrote and completed, I Came as a Shadow, an autobiography of John Thompson, shortly before Coach Thompson passed away, on 30 Aug 2020, at the age of seventy-eight. It is a good read. Washington's narrative points out Thompson was more than a coach, he was an African American trail blazer, at the center of race and sports in America for fifty years. Washington's telling of Thompson's life speaks loudly and clearly to some of the problems of racial justice that still beset our society, but that Thompson fought head on.

When I located the whereabouts of Vince Fletcher, in late 2022, he had just passed away. After his graduation from Georgetown, Fletcher returned to his family of origin's roots in Kershaw Co., South Carolina, near Camden, South Carolina. He was very well respected by those with whom he worked. Fletcher married and was a pillar for his family. And he always rooted for the Hoyas. Vince Fletcher's (a man who wasn't recruited by Thompson) heroics that night allowed Father Henle to stay in John's corner those first four turbulent years. Without that win in Carlisle, Pa., in February of 1973, Thompson's voice very well might never have been heard.