

Black Athletes at White Colleges: The Report of the Crisis

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In the 1920s and 30s the United States was wrapped in its segregationists policies set forth in the Supreme Court's 1896 decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. This policy legalizing segregation of the races was in effect in just about every conceivable aspect of society. There were, however, cracks in this racist armor. Several colleges and universities opened their doors to blacks who participated in athletics. This factor was not lost on the black press, which frequently wrote about these athletes and their accomplishments.

One Black news source in particular, the *Crisis Magazine* (the official news publication of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), wrote not only about the athletic achievements of these athletes, but also of their academic accomplishments. The *Crisis*, from early in it's existence, had apparently recognized the social and political significance of sport in society.