



The basketball players are in Carmichael daily, honing their skills for the upcoming season. Staff photo by James Parker.

## Skip Foreman

### Jabbar speaks with fist, Jackson with bat

It's not who Kareem Abdul-Jabbar hit in the NBA opener for the Los Angeles Lakers and the Milwaukee Bucks last month, but instead, why he knocked out Kent Benson in the first round of their unscheduled ten-second bout.

All the news stories have made Kareem the culprit, who took out his frustrations in the game on the Indiana rookie. It is apparent that thorough investigation is necessary though the verdict has been handed down.

It will be a hefty fee, \$5,000, Kareem will have to put into the NBA coffers, but Benson was the master of his own fate. A study of the video tape shows that Kareem hit Benson back, instead of first as one could be led to believe.

Following a rebound, Kareem and Benson headed to the Milwaukee end of the court. Jabbar gave Benson a slight shove to establish position. Benson responded with a quick, jab-like elbow to Kareem's midsection. The shot caused Jabbar to

double up in pain. Whether he was acting or not only he knows, but his retaliation was no performance.

His right hook sent Benson reeling for three or four staggered steps, and then Benson hit the floor like a limp rag, and Kareem headed for the showers. The sympathies will flow for Benson, but Kareem deserves some review. He didn't buy those goggles for looks, but to protect his very vulnerable eyes. Jabbar was booed in the town he personally gave an NBA championship some years ago. You could expect the boos, but what Kareem did was in self-defense. No rookie is going to intimidate an eight-year man, and Kareem made that clear.

Reggie Jackson has proven that when the money is on the table, he will bring it home. He had said earlier in the baseball season that he wasn't worth the \$3 million the Yankees were paying him to play, but down the stretch into the playoffs, Jackson

showed that he is the money player everyone claims he is.

He also plans to return to Yankee Stadium next spring, despite all the fighting, and all the troubles with management. Reggie can't play anywhere that the press won't give him at least half a page of ink daily. He can become the star he's always wanted to be. The New York press will more than oblige.

South Carolina State, ranked first in NCAA Division II polls, feels that playing in the Gold Bowl in Richmond is much better than winning the NCAA championship. Coach Willie Jeffries has informed the larger athletic body that he will defend the honor of the MEAC by playing the CIAA champion. It may make sense to the people of Orangeburg and the MEAC, but try explaining it to the powers of the NCAA. You can bet on some sort of investigation in the future.

## Basketball—shirts vs. skins

Sheila Smith-Cameron  
Sports Writer

Here I am sitting in Carmichael Auditorium at 4:20 p.m. on a quiet afternoon enjoying a pick-up game. Now wait just a minute. Don't tell me that I should be studying somewhere in a quiet place. I know that! But this is not just any pick-up game. You should try to imagine the following line-ups:

### Shirts

Randy Wiel  
Tom Zaliagiris  
Phil Ford  
Mitch Kupchak  
Mike O'Koren

### Skins

John Kuster  
Walter Davis  
Al Wood  
Jeff Wolf  
Rich Yonakor

If you enjoyed the sport of basketball, you'd probably be here, too. I have

discovered that some of the past and present basketball players of this school play these interesting games daily. Many people stop by to watch such people as Walter Davis and Mitch Kupchak get ready for the upcoming season.

It's not a bad place to take a break when you've had a rough day.

If you've noticed that I happened to be female, don't jump to the conclusions most "knowledgeable" males assume. I do not watch these games because I am awed by the players themselves. The only thing anyone could be awed by is the immense talent these guys possess.

So if you're walking by Carmichael one afternoon and you hear the squeaks of Adidas basketball shoes, stop in. You may like what you see.

You might stay for awhile.

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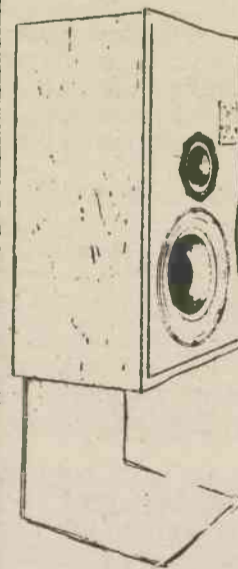
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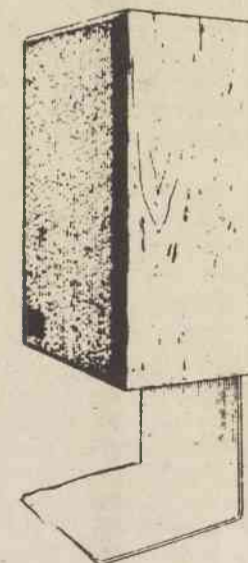
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