

BRONCO SPORTS

March 30, 1972



Has he Got It

Coach Milton Armistead checks with catcher Joe Hobbs about his pitcher. Broncos loss game 6-1, then won 2-1.



Play Ball!

An Atlantic Christian batter swings as baseball season gets underway.

CIAA Southern Division:

Broncos Divisional Favorites

The formation of the new Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) has thrust Coach Milton Armistead and his Fayetteville State Broncos into the position of being the team to beat in the Southern Division of the CIAA this year. The Broncos, with practically the same team as a year ago, were runners-up to North Carolina A. and T. in a race that went down to the final day. The Aggies are one of six former CIAA teams who pulled out to form the new league.

"We went into the last day of the season needing to win a double-header to win the division," Larry Faulk, FSU's fine shortstop and sparkplug said. We were playing at A. and T. and they won the first game to knock us out of it." The Broncos were 9-4 in CIAA play.

After the first four games of this year, all played within a four day span, the Broncos stand

2-2 but show the potential to rate as a favorite. Basketball, with all of the seasoned pitchers and Coach Armistead participating in post-season tournaments, got the team off to a slow training season. The Bronco basketballers didn't finish their season until until three days before baseball season began.

Even at that Earl McNeill showed the form that makes him one of the finest hurlers in the league and district. "McNeill came out the day before the first game and threw about 10 minutes," Faulk said. "Then he came back the next day and threw a two-hitter while going the distance. He's really amazing."

McNeill looks forward to a baseball career, although he is better known for basketball. "He must have a rubber arm. Ain't no way a man could do

that much pitching without getting a sore arm if he didn't have," Ken Free remarked after seeing the stocky lefthander work in Monday's game against Hampton following his Saturday two-hitter against Atlantic Christian. "They just work every four or five days in the majors."

Free, who spent six years in the New York Mets farm system, and advanced as high as Triple-A, the next step from the majors, helps out as a Bronco coach whenever he can. A former infielder, he now works as a recreation consultant for the state. He was a teammate of Buddy Harrelson, Mets shortstop, in the California League, and has been impressed thus far with Faulk who has shown tremendous range afield and a rifle arm. Centerfielder Roger Floyd is another who could make it if his hitting picks up he has said. "He made one play I haven't seen since Paul Blair made it in California."

Faulk, the solid prospect, has been playing baseball since he was seven years old in Lumberton. He came up through the ranks, playing Little League, Babe Ruth and American Legion.

About a baseball career! "I would like to, and definitely hope to," he says. A solid hitter, how is a strong 5-10, 155 pounds, Faulk fills the clean-up spot for the Broncos. "I had a slump in the last three or four games and wound up with about a .345 average last year. Until then I was batting well over .400."

With a little more depth at pitching, improvement in the catching where Joe Hobbs has gotten off to a slow start, and a few more games under their belts should show the veteran FSU club as one of the toughest teams in the district.

The team is fortified with veterans at every position, having lost only one player of consequence from last year. According to Faulk, the desire is there. "We are tighter as a body than we were last year. We are more concerned with helping one another. We want to win," Faulk concluded.

Baseball Schedule

Fayetteville State University

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
March 11, 1972	Atlantic Christian	Home (D.H.) 1:30
March 13, 1972	Hampton Institute	Home 2:00
March 14, 1972	Salisbury	Home 2:00
March 18, 1972	Norfolk State College	Home 2:30
March 19, 1972	Delaware State	Home 2:30
March 21, 1972	Campbell College	Cambell 3:00
March 25, 1972	Shaw	Home 2:30
April 4, 1972	Shaw	Shaw (D.H.)
April 6, 1972	Virginia State	Home 2:30
April 7, 1972	Virginia State	Home 2:30
April 8, 1972	UNCW	Wilmington (D.H.) 2:30
April 11, 1972	St. Augustine	Raleigh 2:00
April 13, 1972	Campbell	Home 2:30
April 17, 1972	St. Augustine	Home 2:00 (D.H.)
April 19, 1972	Delaware State	Delaware 3:15
April 20, 1972	Norfolk State College	Norfolk, Virginia 3:00
April 21, 1972	Hampton Institute	Hampton 1:30
April 25, 1972	Durham College	Home 2:30
April 28, 1972	WSSU	Home 2:30
May 2, 1972	WSSU	WSSU 1:00 (D.H.)
May 5, 1972	Durham College	Durham 2:30

Go Broncos!

The Broncos will be back in action Saturday and Sunday, hosting Norfolk State and Mid-Eastern foe Delaware State. The Hornets were champions of the CIAA's Northern Division a year ago.



Prospect

Shortstop Larry Faulk, Lumberton junior, shows major league potential.