



Tourney Epidemic Approaching

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.

All sports and non-sports fans should be warned that there is a great epidemic rapidly approaching and both groups should be told of the side effects of the fever that will in time engulf million of Americans from coast to coast.

It's called basketball post season tournament fever. It will begin during the waning weeks of February and will last well into March, reaching its peak on the last Monday in March in New Orleans when the two NCAA finalists due battle for the national championship.

Over the next month or so, there will be all sorts of cage tournaments ranging from high school J.V.'s to the big boys of the NCAA.

During this time of year, cage fans virtually go crazy as they follow their favorites through rounds of conference, district, regional, and finally, if they're lucky, national competition.

Radios and televisions are in constant use and requests for tickets can reach ridiculous proportions.

In recent times women's basketball, noting the success of male tournaments, have got into the act and now the ladies fully take part in the post season madness.

In North Carolina, the high schools will conclude regular season play this week and over the next four weeks all classifications (1-A, 2-A, 3-A, 4-A) will play "Russian Roulette" to decide eventual state champions in men's and women's basketball.

On the collegiate level, the women will begin

play during the last week of this month while the men will take to the court during the first week of March.

In this area, there will be a feast of tournaments to choose from, the CIAA Women's Tournament will take place in Durham at North Carolina Central, N.C. State will host the ACC Women's Tournament in Raleigh.

In men's play, the ACC, the biggest and most prestigious conference tournament in America, will tip off in the Greensboro Coliseum from March 5-7 with the finals being broadcast nationally on NBC-TV.

The CIAA, America's

biggest predominantly black tournament, will hold its shoot out at the Scope in Norfolk, Va.

The MEAC, another major black tournament, will be held at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem from March 4-6.

That's only the beginning. After the conference champions have been decided, then it's on to regional play. North Carolina will be the site of the NCAA Regional preliminaries in Charlotte and the Eastern Semi-Finals and Finals will be held at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh.

There will be countless games broadcast on the cable-tv systems, so the average cage fan should have more than enough action to satisfy his or her appetite.

The teams are on their mark and just waiting for the word "Go!" and I hope your team is successful. If not, enjoy the action anyway. There'll be plenty of it.

Hazel Plummer Bowling Scores

The Hazel B. Plummer Bowling League scores for February 15:
Ladies high game: 191-Erna Reid, 191-Flo Roberson.
191-Priscilla Malloy.
Ladies high series: 531-Erna Reid, 526-Flo Roberson, 473-Dee Plummer.
Men's high game: 223, 210, 200-Charles Parker, 204-Linwood Taylor, 204-Wallace Royal.
Men's high series: 633-Charles

Parker, 547-Joe Garner, 538-Adolph Caviness.
Others: 201-Joe Garner, 201, 533-Ronald Miller, 529-T-Bird Roberson, 506-George Thorne.
Four-game winners: Rovers Split Conversions: Howard Fitts, 3-7-10.
High Team Game: 860, Jive Five.
High Team Series: 2303, Jive Five.

Commentary Continued —

N.C. Central Basketball

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.

It has been brought to my attention that my commentary on the current state of N.C. Central's basketball program has caused somewhat of a stir in various parts of the Durham community and on the NCCU Campus.

One Eagle supporter who called the Times to say that I could get more of a story if I went to the campus and interviewed players and students. Oddly enough, I had planned to do just that. Regretfully, another concerned caller did not leave a name (I was out of the office when the call came in) and I would like to get in touch with this person immediately because this person offered much valuable information concerning the Eagles' cage fortunes. My home number can be obtained from *The Carolina Times*.

I also understand that one comment in my story has caused some "depression" among NCCU players. The statement, "schools such as NCCU have to settle for the crumbs", was not made by me — it was made by an Eagle fan who felt that all the really talented players would go to schools such as Duke, UNC, Wake Forest, N.C. State, or Georgetown because

these schools simply offered larger scholarships and got more media attention than schools such as NCCU.

In my opinion, NCCU has no so-called "crumbs" on its team, but let's face it, the Eagles aren't likely to get players like Curtis Hunter, Michael Jordan, etc., for the reason that this disgruntled fan gave, the bigger schools can offer them more and, if I had basketball talent, I would make a large school my first choice.

I still say that there is so much talent in this area (and from what I hear walking around on the NCCU campus) that the Eagles can become a winner if they just put strong support behind recruiting them.

For various reasons, not all locally talented players want to go to the ACC schools. Many black players would prefer to play at a predominantly black school and this is where I think NCCU has blown it!

Just look at other so-called small college basketball rosters and you will find at least one player from the Durham-Raleigh area on it. Heck, there's a junior college in Merced, California that consistently fields championship teams with players from Eastern

North Carolina. Central could very well build the same sort of pipe line.

Tragically, many black players have been exploited by the bigger schools. Central could use this appeal when recruiting. They could tell their prospects that they, above all, will receive their degrees and they will never be exploited by NCCU.

I didn't mean to demoralize the current Eagle squad with last week's column. It's not

their fault. The situation at NCCU happened over a long period of time. I did intend to focus attention to the current NCCU situation and I make no apologies for that. I welcome letters or other responses from you to know what your opinions are.

Finally, again I say to that concerned (anonymous) NCCU supporter with the wealth of information, give me a call. I'd like to follow up on it.

Virginia Survives Wolfpack Scare

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.

For a while it seemed as if newly crowned No. 1 Virginia was destined to leave its lofty position on the floor of N.C. State's rowdy Reynolds Coliseum last Wednesday night.

With State trailing 37-36 and 12,400 roaring fans on their feet, the Wolfpack's Dereck Whittenburg launched a 20-footer with five seconds left that bounced off the rim into the waiting hands of UVA's Ralph Sampson and the Cavaliers had survived a major scare.

Sampson was immediately fouled with

three seconds left. He calmly made his free throws and Virginia won its 23rd game against won loss 39-36.

State chose to slow the tempo from the very beginning and they never let Virginia pull out to any kind of comfortable lead. In fact, the Cavaliers' aggressive play got them into foul trouble, therefore the Wolfpack was able to run its motion offense nearly to perfection. State held a 24-23 lead at the half.

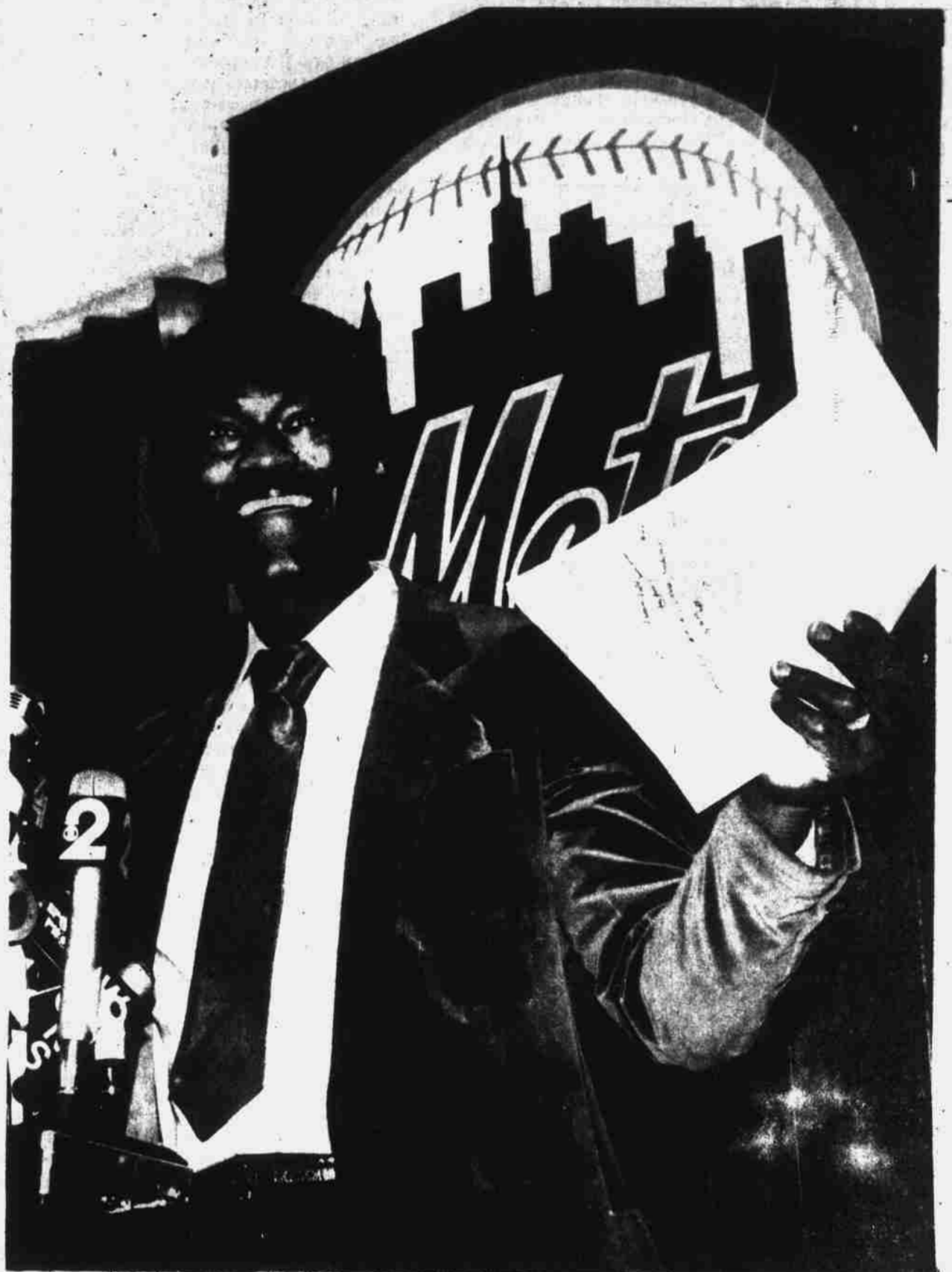
In the second half, the lead went back and forth until the 4:28 mark when State, trailing 37-36, decided to tempt the fate and hold for the last shot. UVA stayed back in a zone and let the "Pack run the time off.

With :17 seconds left, State called time out to set up the Whittenburg shot attempt.

State Coach Jim Valvano said, "The shot was there, it just didn't go. If it had there would've been a lot of celebrating."

On this night, the only celebrating was in the Virginia locker room.

Notes: An informal poll of writers at this game showed that most of them favor Virginia to win the national championship in March. Most also felt that North Carolina would also make the final four. Ralph Sampson only scored 11 points, but he was still "Ralph!" Duke continues to puzzle everyone. This time they lost to Steison 88-81. The finals of the ACC Tournament (March 7) will be broadcast on national tv.



NEW YORK—George Foster smiles as he holds up his new five-year, \$10 million contract during a press conference as a New York Met. Foster's contract is the largest in Met history.

A Reader's Viewpoint

I read the February 13, 1982 Commentary:

"Why Can't N.C. Central Win In Basketball" with interest and pain. I have the same concern as Mr. Elson Armstrong Jr. and wonder why N.C.C.U. can't win in basketball, particularly since the team is comprised of some very talented young men.

While I understand the pain and frustration that Mr. Armstrong must feel when he is asked why his Alma Mater is flying so low in basketball, it does not justify categorizing fine, sensitive, talented young men as "crumbs". Maybe this is one reason why the team is not winning. I am also sure that the student-athletes who are members of the team suffer much pain and can't perform at their best knowing that such opinions exist at the

community level.

Obviously, there are some major problems which need to be identified and resolved. The current basketball team has talent. There are three former starting players for Jordan High School (1980 State Champions), a Chancellor Scholar-high school all-state and other local and non-local talented players. The majority of N.C.C.U.'s basketball players could have chosen other schools to attend. Yes, some of those schools are predominately white institutions. What N.C.C.U. does have is a group of talented athletes who are good students. These students chose N.C.C.U. because they wanted an education and wanted to play basketball for a

predominately black team. So, what is the problem? Maybe there is another side to be told, such as broken promises by the administration and poor leadership.

—Name withheld by request

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1982 NCCU Football Season Tickets On Sale

We're offering the five-game 1982 season ticket at \$25 for adults, \$20 for students, and \$10 for children 12 and under. (The season ticket price schedule is normally \$30 for adults, \$20 for students, and \$10 for children, 12 and under.)

We can offer this special savings to you for a limited time only. After May 31, season ticket prices will be at the regular price of \$30 for adults, \$20 for students and \$10 for children, 12 and under. But do not wait until May 31! The sooner you purchase your ticket, the better your reserved seat will be.

If you had season tickets in 1981, the seats you held will be reserved for you until Monday, March 1.

We are looking forward to our third winning season in CIAA play. We have enjoyed a measure of success the past two years. We won the CIAA Championship in 1980 and the Southern Division Crown in '81. We finished second to Va. Union.

We have a very attractive home schedule for your entertainment. Featured are two teams that played in the NCAA Division II playoffs - Va. Union and Elizabeth City State. Our home slate: September 11th - Virginia Union; September 18th - Winston-Salem State; October 23rd - Elizabeth City State; November 6th - Johnson C. Smith for Homecoming; November 13th - North Carolina A&T State. You may purchase your season ticket at the Athletic Office or order by mail. A small handling charge will be added if you ask us to mail your tickets. Join us as the Eagles continue to Fly High in 1982.

Elson's NCAA Top Ten

1. Virginia
2. North Carolina
3. DePaul
4. Tulsa
5. Georgetown, DC
6. Fresno State
7. Oregon State
8. West Virginia
9. Iowa
10. Wake Forest/Igaho