

Basketball

Breakers take title

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Stingy defense and Kenny Mickens' superb offense carried the Breakers to a 67-65 victory over Piney Grove in the Carver Summer League championship game last Thursday night.

The fourth-seeded Breakers, led by Mickens, ran out to a commanding 38-27 lead at halftime and held on in the final period to win the tourney.

A furious last-minute rally, paced by Brian Leak and Bryan Howard, came up short for the top-seeded Piney Grove squad.

Piney Grove was hampered by an off-court nemesis, too. Several members of the team were late showing up at the gym as a result of fall football practice. The game had to be delayed almost two hours until Piney Grove could muster five players to start the contest.

From the outset, it was obvious that it was worth the wait for the upstart Breakers, who jumped out to a fast start.

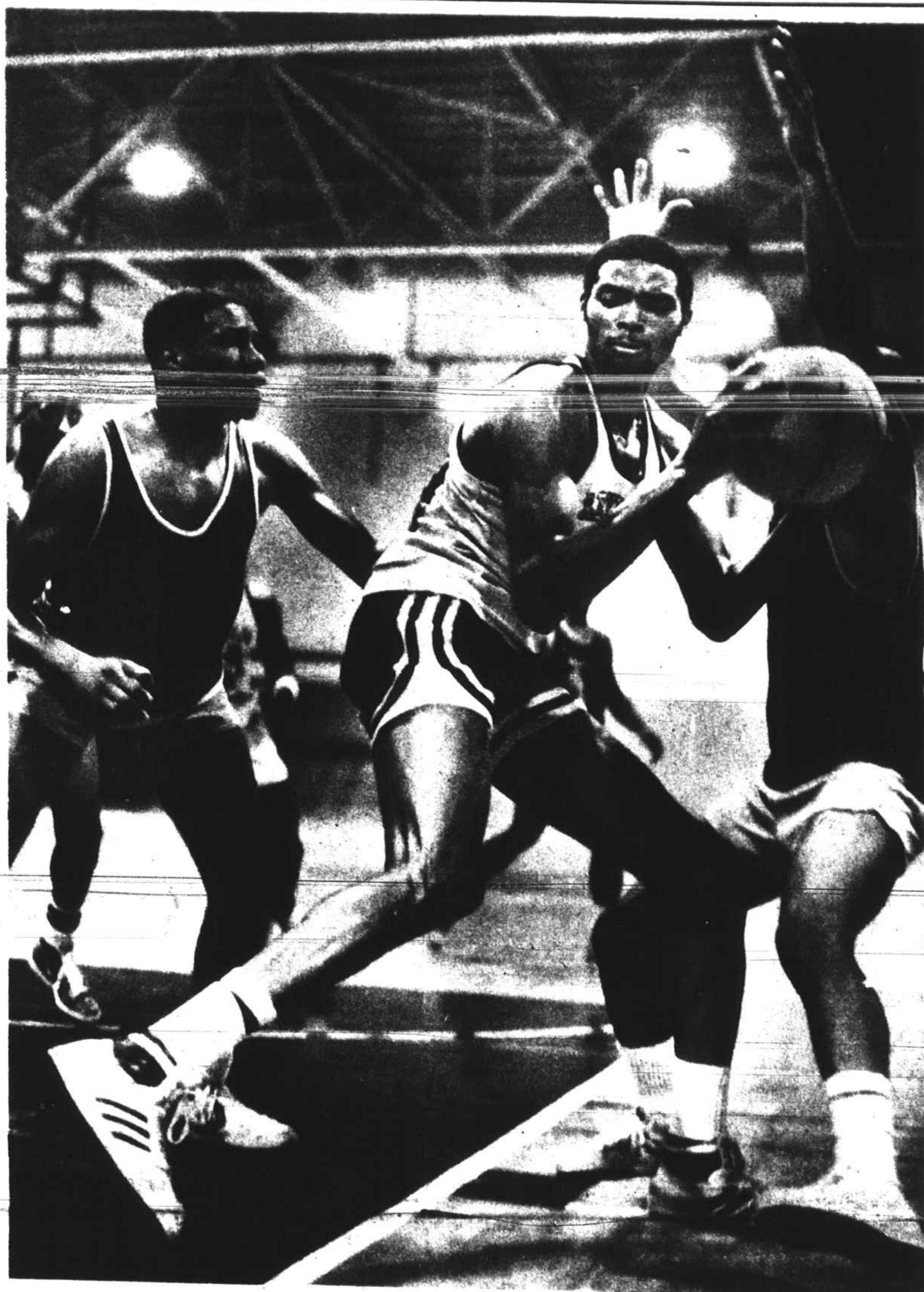
Mickens topped the Breakers in scoring with 20 points, while Jack Maxwell tossed in 17 and Mike Reid chipped in with 13 points.

The game was the culmination of what director Hansel Hentz sees as one of the best seasons in the league's five-year history.

"This year we had more young talent than any year since I formed the league," says Hentz. "The guys are more coachable, they understand what you try to teach them and, most importantly, they have excellent size."

Though Hentz concedes that the number of players participating in the league has not increased in the past two years, he's still satisfied.

"We've made tremendous strides as far as developing young players," he says. "We have really stressed the importance of the Please see page B2



All-Star

Robert McIlwaine of Southside powers to the basket against the Breakers' Kenny Mickens in recent Carver Summer League play. McIlwaine, a starter on Howard University's team

as a freshman last season, is the starting center on Hansel Hentz's all-star team (photo by James Parker).

Baseball

Rampaging Indians take state crown

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Strong relief pitching by Jeff Tuttle propelled the Winston-Salem Indians to a hard-fought 10-8 victory over the Black Creek Dodgers and a sweep of their best-of-three series for the North Carolina state semi-pro baseball title last weekend.

With the win, the Indians advanced to the national semi-pro finals in Wichita, Kan., for the second consecutive year.

"We went down there with the attitude that we were going to win," said Indians Manager Rip Wilkins. "Basically, we used fundamental baseball to win. We hit the ball very well, we had outstanding pitching and, for the majority of the two ball games, we played well defensively."

Otis Foster, Tommy Gregg, Mike Wilcox and Teska Dillard all performed well offensively. Foster had three-run homers in both outings while Dillard's two-run shot got the Indians off to a flying 2-0 start in the first inning of the opener, which the Indians won 14-2.

The Indians, behind the pitching of Brian Peterson, pounded Black Creek for three more runs in the fifth, four in the sixth and four more in the seventh inning.

Wilkins was particularly pleased with Foster's play. "Otis Foster can still swing the bat," Wilkins said of the former first-round pick in the Red Sox organization. "He's really come through in clutch situations and provided an offensive spark."

Gregg and Wilcox, both of whom played for Wake Forest last spring, provided an additional boost for the Indians with their timely hitting. Gregg went three for four in the first game and stole two bases. In the final game, Wilcox had three hits and

scored three runs.

"We have really been playing well as a team," said Gregg, a late pick in last spring's major league draft. "Playing for the Indians has really helped my attitude. The players help hard and everyone's together."

Wilcox said his experience has been similar. "Winning helps your mental approach a lot," he said. "It has given me a lot of confidence in my abilities and I think it'll help me improve."

Also, numerous professional scouts again will be in the stands, a major factor, according to Wilkins, in the team's lackluster showing a year ago.

"Basically, we used fundamental baseball to win. We hit the ball very well, we had outstanding pitching and, for the majority of the two games, we played well defensively."

-- Rip Wilkins

"It was a new experience for us last year," said Wilkins. "We had pro scouts in the room next to us and a lot of the guys got sidetracked thinking about the possibility of signing with the pros. This year, we know what to expect and I think we'll be up for the challenge."

"Some of our players hadn't played on Astroturf or weren't used to playing in front of such a large crowd," Wilkins added. "After winning the state title for the second year, I think we're more mature. It's going to take a heck of a team to beat us this year."

Following the Indians' win in the title game, Wilkins immediately began preparations for the trip to Wichita.

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Black College Sports

Wanted: Tall, white men who can jump high

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

(Special note to readers: In the past, this column has concerned itself almost exclusively with black college athletics, and has strived to give you the kind of information that can't be found anywhere else.

We will continue to do that, but starting this week, we'll do even more. We're expanding our focus to include professional sports, too. That will allow us to keep our eye on a number of things, from how black quarterbacks are treated in the National Football League to why there aren't more black golfers in the pro tour. We hope you'll like the changes.

In the National Basketball Association,

where teams are desperate for white superstars, extraordinary salaries await any white player who is above 6 feet tall and can walk and chew gum concurrently.

Of course, things haven't really become that ridiculous in the NBA -- or have they? Dallas Mavericks forward-center Pat Cummings, an average player at best, recently signed for more than \$3 million over five seasons with the New York Knicks.

Other white free agents also have been signed to multimillion-dollar contracts lately. They include Milwaukee back-up center Paul Mokeski, Detroit forward Kelly Tripucka and Portland guard Jim Paxson.

While those white players were quickly sign-

ed to new, and better, contracts, some superior players -- all of them black -- are still haggling with management. They include Washington's Greg Ballard, Golden State's Joe Barry Carroll, Utah's John Drew and Phoenix's Maurice Lucas.

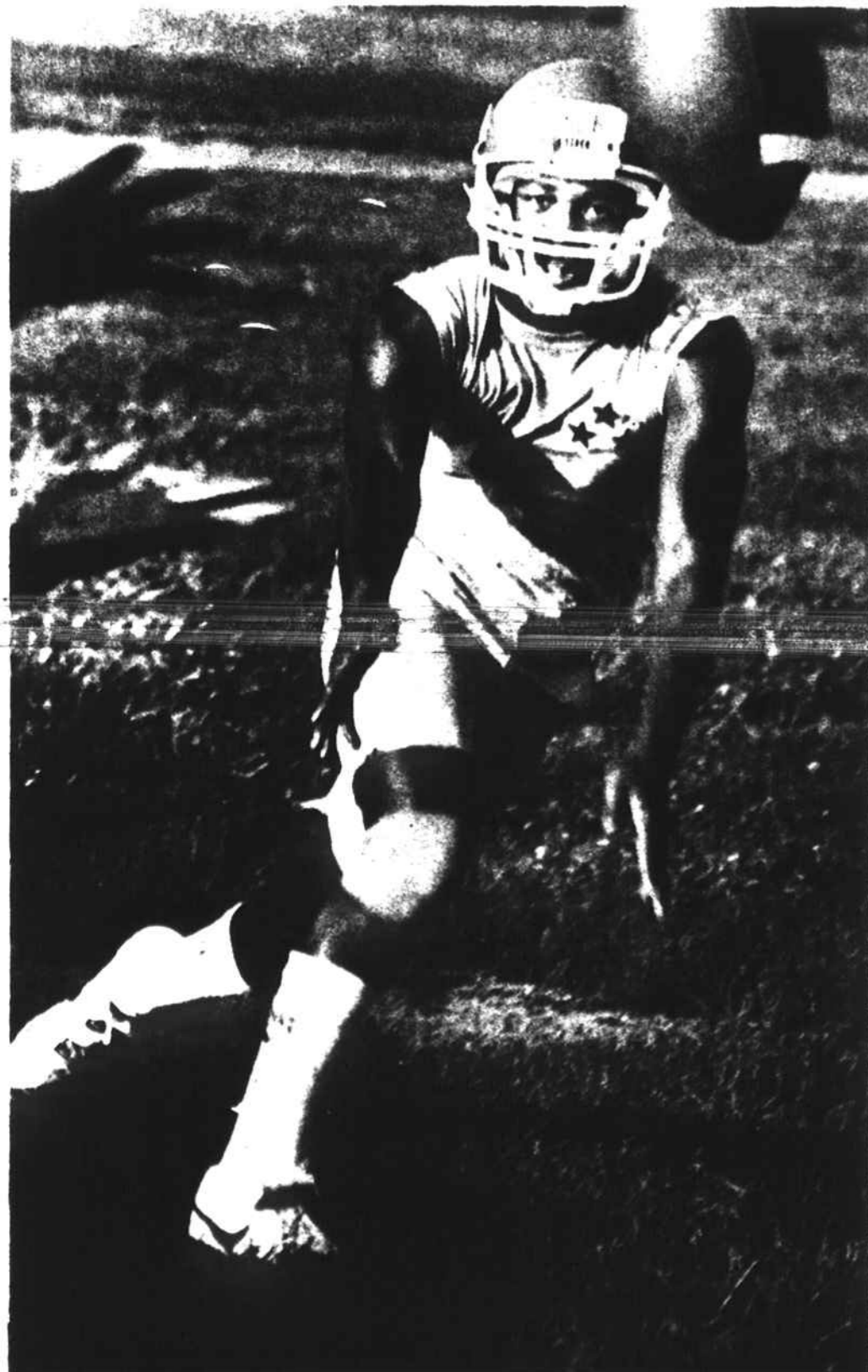
None of those players made more than \$400,000 last year. This season, the Knicks' Cummings, who isn't in the same class with guys like Ballard and Lucas, will make more than \$800,000.

Hey! What's Gerry Cooney's Record Now?

Answer: Who cares?

If ever there was a figment of the white

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That Time Of Year

Quarterback Chris Acker of Parkland High School pitches out in workouts last Friday. The '84 prep season begins Aug. 30 (photo by James Parker).

A change in store?

Thacker's considering playing football

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

While most of the world's best wrestlers gathered in Los Angeles for the Olympic Games last week, the best American heavyweight wrestler was in

"It would have been one thing if someone had beaten me.... But to lose because the judges thought I was stalling is hard to take."

-- NCAA Heavyweight Wrestling Champ
Tab Thacker

Winston-Salem watching the Olympics on television.

After winning the NCAA heavyweight title last spring, 6-foot-5-inch, 395-pound Tab Thacker, a Winston native, seemed assured of a berth on the U.S. Olympic team.

But it was not to be. The prospect of a feature role in a movie with Burt Reynolds and Clint Eastwood lured Thacker to Hollywood, where he spent five weeks shooting the movie "City Heat." By the time he got to the trials, several rumors had begun to circulate about his training, or lack thereof, for the Olympics.

"I trained the whole time we were shooting the movie," said Thacker, who in one of his five scenes in the movie got to beat up Reynolds and Eastwood. "The only problem was that the Olympic officials wanted me to wrestle Greco-Roman style and I was accustomed to the free style that's used in college."

After Thacker finally agreed to wrestle Greco-Roman, there were other problems to overcome.

"People said I had forsaken my dream of wrestling in the Olympics," said Thacker. "They said I had sold out for money to play in the movie and Please see page B2



N.C. State's Tab Thacker (photo by James Parker).