

Baseball Notebook

Hamilton completes 6-0 May

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

The highlight last week for the Winston-Salem Spirits was Carl Hamilton's sixth straight win, a 5-1 decision over Durham Wednesday night.

Hamilton's timely victory slowed the Bulls, who had moved within 1 1/2 games of the Spirits in the Carolina League Southern Division's first-half pennant race.

After losing his first two starts and owning a horrendous 29.25 earned run average, Hamilton has been the toughest pitcher in the league. All six of his victories came in May, when he posted a 0.41 ERA with five complete games and three shutouts. Two of the wins were one-hitters.

Now the left-hander's ERA for the season stands at a very respectable 2.61.

The week started with a pair of losses to the Bulls before Hamilton and **Jamie Moyer** threw back-to-back complete game wins. Moyer is as almost as hot as Hamilton. He beat Salem 4-2, running his record to 5-0 in May with a 1.77 ERA. The right-hander, who leads the team with 81 strikeouts, threw four complete games.

The statistic that tells just how strong Winston-Salem's starters have been is 16 completes games. Meanwhile, relievers have made only 9 saves.

Other noteworthy events included **Don Bethel's** first setback of the season, a 3-2 loss at Salem Saturday. **Dave Martinez**, the league's top hitter with a .364 average, stole three bases in one game. He leads the Spirits with 14 thefts.

Drew Hall pitched four hitless innings of relief for Chicago in the Cubs' exhibition with triple-A Iowa on Thursday. Hall was the Cubs' first-round pick in last summer's draft.



What A Month!

Spirits' left-hander Carl Hamilton shows the form that led to an unbeaten May; he posted a 0.41 earned run average for the month (photo by James Parker).

Meanwhile, the Spirits added left-hander **Greg Bell** to their roster this week. Bell was 1-1 in Peoria of the Midwest League with a 4.30 ERA. The Chicago native put some impressive numbers on the board last year, going 7-1 with a 1.73 ERA in Geneva and 1-0 with a 2.05 ERA in Quad City.

Ford Park for a game with parent club Pittsburgh, which was an 11-3 winner....

•A pair of Hagerstown pitchers have excellent strikeouts-to-walks ratios. **Mike Skinner** has 56 strikeouts and nine walks; **Eric Bell** possesses a 57-to-17 ratio.... The Suns drew 7,356 last month for their game with parent Baltimore, which won 8-0....

Lynchburg's **Jose Bautista** threw the first no-hitter of the season against Lynchburg last week. He just missed a perfect game, walking **J.B. Moore** with two out in the fourth inning....

Baseball Notes

•**Steve Lyons**, who played in Winston-Salem in 1981, had his first two major-league home runs last Monday in Boston's 9-2 win over Minnesota. Lyons started in place of American League home

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Spirit Transactions

The Cubs parted company with left-hander **Jim Boudreau**, who was dealt to the double-A Charlotte Orioles.

Boudreau had a 7.07 ERA and a 0-3 record for Winston-Salem. His last outing came May 27, when he issued a game-winning two-run homer to Durham's **Dave Griffin**.

Griffin wasn't exactly being a good neighbor. He and Boudreau grew up two blocks apart in their native Chicago.

Carolina League Confab

•**Prince William's Lance Belen** raised his average more than 100 points two weeks ago while hitting three homers, including one game-winner.... Teammate **Dimas Gutierrez** remains among the league leaders in average at .347.... The Pirates have had problems stealing bases. They've been thrown out 31 times and have stolen only 27 bases. **Reggie Barringer** has stolen only three of 13 bases.... The Pirates drew 5,800 last month at Davis

YMCA boxing

From Page B1

Joyner said he and his staff will concentrate on aquatics and day care, which are primary services. Boxing and martial arts he termed "special interest" programs.

The Winston Lake YMCA director also contends that the facility does not have space for a boxing program.

"Evidently that was a decision that was made before I got here," he said. "In the original plans, there was space set aside that probably would have been able to accommodate the boxing program. With the facilities we have right now, there is no separate space to do that. My decision was in terms of what kind of program we were going to offer this summer."

Joyner said that perhaps the original plans were to have the boxing program in the gymnasium, "but the gym is not a good place to have it."

Among the criteria to be used to determine whether the program will be reinstated, he said, is how much interest it generates in the community. The program must also be self-supporting, Joyner said, utilizing the YMCA only as an access facility.

Ford believes the program gets passing marks on both of these criteria.

"This has always been a producing program and people are deeply interested in it," he said.

Admittedly, all of the interest has not been from those who are supportive of the program, Ford says.

"Some people have had negative thoughts because it was successful," he said. "You know we had two boys (**Kent Hardee** and **Cassius Ford**) who we developed and we carried them along, and they won the nationals and fought in the Pan Am Games."

Ford has only run the show in recent years after **Austin Benjamin**, the program's founder, retired



Winston Lake YMCA's Norman Joyner.

due to illness. Benjamin had coached boxing for more than a half century.

"When Hardee went to the Olympic Trials last summer, it was considered history for the YMCA," Ford said. "You have to consider what we had to train with, working out down in the basement on Patterson Avenue. You just don't come to town and destroy 45 years of history."

With the success the program had, you would have thought it was ready for the big time. Not the end of the line.

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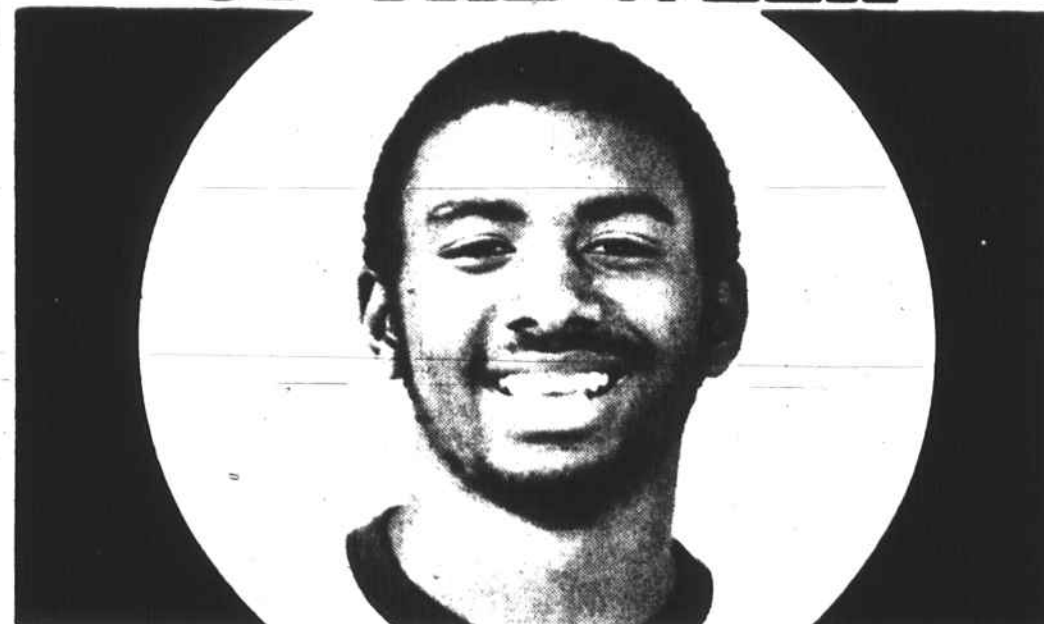
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THE Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem salutes **Randy Jones** of Glenn High School... He's the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Jones, a member of Glenn's track and field team, finished fifth in the 200-meter dash at the recent state track and field meet. He finished with a time of 22.70 seconds.

IN honor of Randy Jones, the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company will make a cash contribution to Glenn's athletic program. Congratulations, Randy Jones... the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week!

If you would like to nominate a high school athlete for Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week, contact David Bulla at 723-8448 or write him at P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

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