

**Sports Beat**

**Scouting service's time has come**

By KENNETH RAYMOND  
Chronicle Sports Writer

**■ A Sports Analysis**

A scouting service like Scouting Report, which provides colleges with information on low-profile high school athletes, is an idea whose time has come.

There are plenty of outstanding athletes around Forsyth County who are deserving of athletic scholarships and won't get them because of lack of exposure. Recruiting can be a very flawed business. Overlooked or mismanaged athletes end up working or going through a lot of red tape to enter college.

I know what I'm talking about, because I was one of them.

**Senior Snafu**

I graduated from a small private Catholic high school in Boston in 1982. Throughout my high school years I played football. I had a great junior season and an even better senior year. I made all-conference and was recruited by several colleges in the area. I heard from places such as Boston College, Boston University and a few out-of-state schools like Tennessee, Louisville and -- believe it or not -- Penn State.

I could have accepted one of the offers from the schools in my area, but like so many high school graduates I wanted to get away from home. So I decided to attend the University of Tennessee.

For some reason UT only would deal with a prospect's head coach, which was all right by me -- until my coach moved to Florida for personal reasons. All of a sudden there was no mediator between Tennessee's football program and me. That's when the snafu began.

Then the Vols' recruiting coordinator took another job and the list of the 1982 recruits went with the four winds.

**Summer Of Frustration**

That entire summer I spent trying to get into the other schools that were recruiting me and a few that weren't. When it looked as if I was going to be accepted by a school, no money or room would be available.

It was one of the most frustrating periods of my life. August rolled around and I was faced with the possibility of never going to college and working at a fastfood restaurant my entire life.

Until finally Roscoe Baker, who was director of the Roxbury Boys Club at that time, called a friend of his, informally known as "Jeep." Jeep was a graduate and head of the Alumni Committee at Winston-Salem State. Jeep, who's a skillful diplomat, became the mediator between WSSU and me. I was accepted into the university and received an athletic scholarship. I got the chance to get an education and play college football.

If Scouting Report was in business then the way it is now, I would have gone through a lot less grief that summer.

Ram Coach Bill Hayes, who remembers that difficult time almost as well as I do, believes that a service like Scouting Report benefits high school athletes and the small colleges much more than large colleges.

"A service like that will definitely help high school athletes and it will help the small college as well," the coach said. "There are about 10 times as many small schools as large schools who don't have the money to recruit to far from their location."

"Scouting Report helps schools like WSSU more be aware of what (type of talent) is out there."

Hayes has had several athletes on his team who did not receive much recognition in high school but has benefited his program.

"Timmy Newsome, Alvin Powell, Eddie Sauls and Tony Herring were underpublicized high school players in our program," Hayes said. "They helped us a lot. Newsome and Powell are playing pro ball now. Sauls is working for the CIA and Herring worked for them this summer."

About the only problem I can see with the service is that it's a bit expensive. Children from single-parent and below-the-poverty-line families will have trouble justifying an expenditure of \$550, but the investment may be worth it in the long run.

Anyway, Robert Swanson, Scouting Report director for North Carolina, says financial arrangements can be worked out for hardship cases.

I'd like to think that nobody else has experienced anything like I went through back then. That's probably not the case.

But it would have been a relief if Scouting Report were operating back then as it is now. If it was, who knows where I'd be.

• Maybe playing with the New England Patriots.

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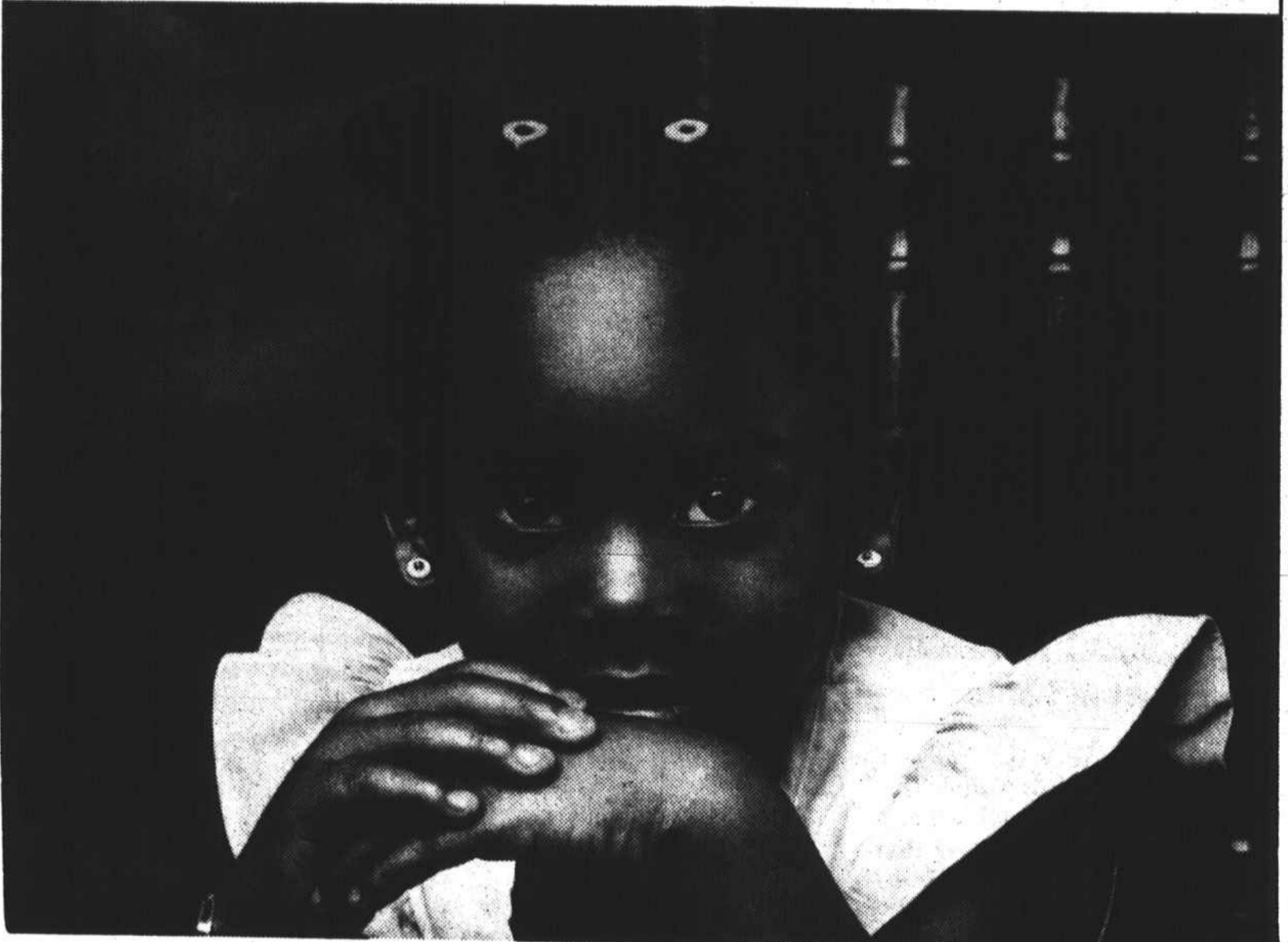
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PHOTOGRAPHED BY RONALD G. HARRIS  
Mr. Harris has enjoyed a successful career in New York City since 1967. He has won major awards and his work is featured in magazines and billboards across the country.



**Local Sports**

**Golf pro claims that he was denied access**

By DAVID BULLA  
Chronicle Sports Editor

Harold Dunavant, a veteran PGA Class A pro, accused the City Recreation Department of preventing him from running his National Black Golf Hall of Fame Tournament at Winston Lake Golf Course in July.

Dunavant, who held the tourney at Bel-Aire Golf Course in Greensboro July 19-20, made his accusation public Tuesday at a meeting of the Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Commission. Dunavant requested permission to use the course in May through Winston Lake Pro Ernest Morris. Dunavant suggested he should talk to Tommy Gavin, an assistant director of Recreation.

Dunavant said that Gavin did not want him to use the public facility because he might not be able to pay the advertised \$15,000 purse for the professional and seniors flights.

"He (Gavin) told me his biggest concern was if I could pay the pro purse," said Dunavant, who was golf pro at Winston Lake from 1960-62. "I told him it's not their responsibility. There's collecting the green fees, golf carts and making money on concessions."

"I told him I would guarantee him 100 players. So this makes him look like a bad businessman. I offered him the best deal."

Gavin said that, in the best interest of the course, the purse ought to be guaranteed.

"When tourneys are put on at one of our courses, we want them run properly," Gavin said. "We don't want to see somebody do something that would tarnish the reputation of a course."

"We are concerned with whether or not a tourney can

deliver, especially in the case of Winston Lake where we are trying to build its credibility and reputation."

Dunavant claims he paid the entire \$15,000 purse, which was paid from the entry fees, from money he borrowed from Florida businessmen Jimmy Taylor, Eldorado Long and Mark McCray, from his own pocket and from two Winston-Salem corporations.

Dunavant did consider cutting the purse at the Bel-Aire event. However, a threatened last-round walkout by several pros persuaded him to make full payment.

"The tournament officials said they were about nine or 10 pro entry fees short of paying the purse," said Brian Skeen, assistant pro at High Point's Blair and the second-place finisher. "They were thinking about cutting \$5,000, but nine players at \$100 per entry fee is only \$900. A whole bunch of people were going to walk out Sunday, so they made full payment."

Skeen said he received his second-place check for \$1,500.

Gavin said a course like Winston Lake would suffer a tarnished image if a promoter failed to meet promised payments. Moreover, he was unaware of any sponsors for the Hall of Fame tourney when he met with Dunavant in May.

"We told Mr. Dunavant we would give it (his proposal) serious consideration if he met certain requests and answered some relevant questions," Gavin said. "If someone came to you with that size purse and no sponsor, what would you do?"

"We have nothing against Harold Dunavant. We do that (scrutinize the finances of a tournament proposal) with any golf course that has someone who Please see page B11

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