

# Sports Beat

with Bill Johnson



## Top Golden Bull

# George Cooper Takes His Offensive Show Outside

By ALAN ROUNDTREE  
Post Feature Writer

For the past two seasons Johnson C. Smith's George "Chick" Cooper has terrorized opposing defenses with his inside scoring.

His mastery of the inside game is evidenced by his reaching the 1,000 point plateau in less than three varsity seasons. And for the remainder of this season and the next it appears Golden Bull opponent will still another side of George Cooper to contend with.

Cooper has now taken his offensive show to the outside and is hitting his 15-20 foot tries with amazing accuracy. His 45 for 21 shooting night against Winston-Salem, including an 11 out of 12 performance during the first half, is just a sample of Cooper's newly found shooting touch.

According to Cooper the shot is a result of two years of hard work in an attempt to gain respect from opposing defenses who had slacked off him when he was outside.

"I have always been a center and never did much practicing playing forward," said the 6-7 junior, who leads the CIAA conference in field goal percentage with an even .500. "Actually the shots I'm taking now are more for a forward but I felt that if I was going to play basketball when I was going to have to develop some other shots."

The big question surrounding his outside shooting is whether the team could survive without his inside rebounding off the offensive boards. But Cooper quickly threw out any possible problems underneath when he added 15 rebounds in the Winston-Salem game.

"I strive for 15 rebounds a

### Frazier, Ali Bout Will Be Seen On Coliseum Screen

For Joe Frazier, the former heavyweight champion of the world, his return battle with Muhammad Ali, the former heavyweight champion of the world, in Madison Square Garden on Monday, January 28th, is purely personal. There's big money involved but it's not a fight for money alone. Joe Frazier wanted this fight as badly as Ali. It's a challenge of pride and prejudice. It is a mutual dislike that can only be resolved by violence in the ring, and maybe not even then. It is an authentic "grudge" match and it can be seen via special telecast at The Charlotte Coliseum.

### ATTENTION

Don't Forget

These Numbers:

392-1306

or

392-1307

These Are Numbers

We Have Installed

To Receive Your

News, Tips,

Suggestions

and

Complaints.

CALL MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
... BEFORE 6 P.M.



George Cooper

game because I'm still the controller in the back," said Cooper, a native of Syracuse, New York. The whole thing is

to keep the other team playing honest. If they see you like to do just one thing they'll overplay you

just to test you. If you let them get away with it you eventually start playing their type of game and that's not what we want to do.

"We have a strong line in Skinny Poppo, a Milton Hill and Dr. Jay, a 6-6 freshman Robert Lewis. If I see that they are having trouble underneath then I'll go inside and help out.

"But since they are so good off the boards, there is never any hassles about me shooting from outside."

And how does Cooper feel about the Bulls being in first place?

"We had a lot of changes throughout this season and we are just starting to get used to each other as a unit."

"I think we've got it together now and I don't think we're going to give it up to easily. We've still got a lot ahead of us but it feels great to be on top right now."

## Lions Have Easy Week

By ALAN ROUNDTREE

West Charlotte High should have a relatively easy week coming up when it takes on Independence High and Hickory High.

Independence, which gave a tough East Mecklenburg team all it could handle before the Eagles went on to an overtime victory, depend on their guards to control the tempo of the game.

This strategy should play right into the hands of West Charlotte, who is led by Phil and Eric Harris. The pair are ranked two and three in the Mecklenburg County scoring race and have become known throughout the city as the Harris Machine.

The Lion's would have to be favored in both contests not only because of their overall talent but also because of the home court advantage. Every Lion game this season has been a sellout and the noise level in their tiny den could certainly compare with many larger college crowds.

And judging from their performance in Monday's game against Hunter Huss it appears the Lion's prefer playing in closed surroundings.

Said one West Charlotte player, "In our gym there are people all around you and you can feel the crowd. At the Coliseum you can look through



CHARLES McCULLOUGH  
West Charlotte mentor

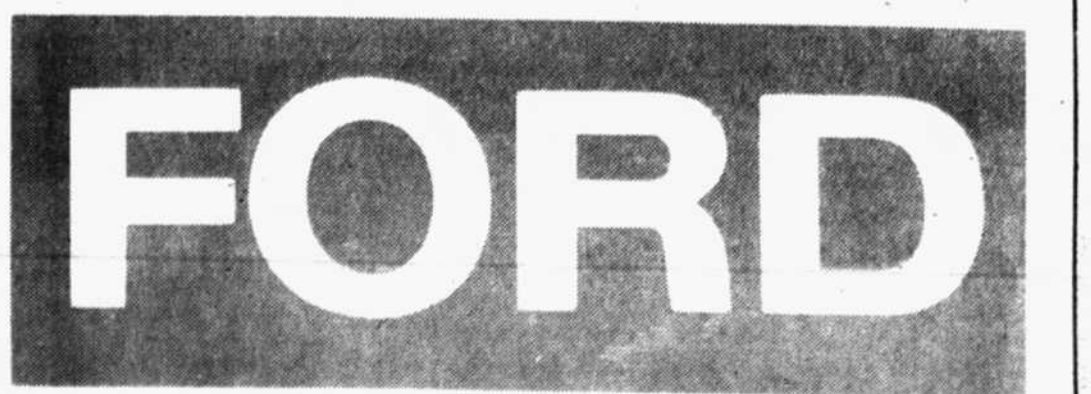
the basket and see nothing but empty seats.

"It's just a big cold place." It was definitely cold in the Coliseum as far as the temperatures go but if the Lions hope to make another appearance in the state playoffs they are going to have to learn how to play on the bigger floors.

A big plus for the Lions will be the return of center Tom Wilson who cracked a bone in his foot shortly after the start of the season. Although John Reynolds and Darrell Potts have filled in admirably for the Lions, neither possess an outside shot and as a result teams have been doubling up on the hot member of the Harris Machine.

# Pride in their skill, care in their work.

# The closer you look at Ford Dealer service, the more confident you'll feel.



FDAP

**TOWN AND COUNTRY FORD INC.**  
4120 E. INDEPENDENCE BLVD.  
CHARLOTTE, N.C.

### SAY YOU SAW IT HERE.....

Many people are like signposts in that they spend their lives pointing in the right direction, but never go that way themselves.

The famed Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association is undergoing a big shakeup in the coaching departments at three of its top institutions. Coach Whitney Van Cleve has officially resigned as head football coach at Hampton Institute amid speculations that Dr. Walter Lavett and his staff at Virginia State College will assume his HI post.

It's unofficial at this writing but John D. Marshall, the popular assistant football coach at Johnson C. Smith University, has accepted the head football coach position at Virginia State.

**SUDDEN THAWT** - It would be difficult to disagree with coach Digger Phelps in that Notre Dame's victory over UCLA Saturday was "good for college basketball" ... Especially at Notre Dame, which is riding in the No. 1 position among the nation's top 20 basketball teams!

Coach Charley Cox has a swimming date in Hampton, Va. Saturday, Feb. 23 when Charley C's Golden Bulls meet the Pirates in a CIAA meet.

David Thompson, the gifted junior at North Carolina State, is indeed a super star in basketball. In addition to his fluid moves and uncanny shooting, Little David sparkles the game with the same excitement Willie Mays uses to generate in baseball and which O.J. gives to football.

Bob Boozer's debut as a color commentator on TVS Weekly Basketball colorcasts was impressive. Though he's no Bill Russell, Boozer is more than adequate.

**ASK COACH JOE ALSTON** to name the top four basketball teams in the CIAA Southern Division and you'll get a ready answer. Joe feels that five of the division's six quintets are "about evenly matched."

He figures J.C. Smith, Fayetteville, Livingstone, Shaw and Winston-Salem will battle to the wire for the coveted tournament berths in the southern division. According to Alston, Winston-Salem has the toughest schedule in the final weeks. "Seven of their 12 remaining games are away from home," Alston offered.

Joe also believes that Shaw is the team to beat for the Southern Division title...

Reports reaching this desk are that Kenny Diamond has the best of the little league basketball teams in the area. Ken's KYD's cagers will go on public display at Hartley-Woods Gym on the Smith campus Monday night in the preliminary to the game between Virginia State and the Golden Bulls.

### How Does That Grab You?

When Joe Caldwell failed to win a position with the ABA East All-Stars, Cougar management immediately started pushing for a change in voting mechanics "in order for statistic sheets fail to tell a complete story when all-star voting time arrives."

**DID YOU KNOW THAT** Livingstone's Blue Bears did not convert a free throw attempt in their 82-80 loss to Winston-Salem last week?

"I can't remember a team of mine ever making a free throw in a game," coach Morris Wiggins admits. "It's most unusual," he continued, "It's also unusual when you get only one free throw chance."

Who is the most improved player on the Johnson C. Smith basketball team? The consensus here is that big George Cooper wins the honors. The 6-8 junior is leading the Southern division in field goal percentage, shooting, is third in rebounds and third in total points scored.

## Black news is good news

Every day something good can happen to those beautiful ears of yours. It's called Black news. And the way you get next to it is by tuning in a National Black Network station.

Every hour on the hour 18 times a day, (slightly abbreviated schedule on Sunday) you can hear about what's happening in your world. That's because it's news reported and edited by Black people.

Listen to the good news. Black news on the National Black Network.

**The National Black Network**  
Division of Unity Broadcasting Network, Inc.  
1350 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10019