

# Sports Beat

with Bill Johnson



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

The basketball race in MEAC and the CIAA is heading for an exciting finish. Both championship races come to an end this weekend and each will have to wait until late Saturday night before naming the 1973-74 title winner.

Johnson C. Smith likely will back into the CIAA Southern Division title since the Golden Bulls have finished their league commitments with a 10-6 record. However, Fayetteville State, which met Virginia State in Petersburg, Va. Wednesday night before hosting Norfolk State in Fayetteville Saturday night, has an outside chance of pulling into a tie with Joe Alston's unpredictable crew.

If Fayetteville can survive its crucial tests with Virginia State and Norfolk State, the two wins would give the CIAA co-champions in the Southern Division, and there would be a flip of a coin to determine the seeding in next weekend's CIAA Basketball Tournament in the Greensboro Coliseum.

The northern division title likely will go to Norfolk State, which, at this writing, holds a slim one-game lead over Virginia State. The Spartans can wrap up the championship with a victory over Fayetteville State. However, should Fayetteville upset Norfolk State and if Virginia State knocks off Fayetteville and Elizabeth City, at Elizabeth City Saturday night, the Trojans would be the champions.

The fight for the championships in each division is not the only interesting battle being waged. Hampton and Elizabeth City are struggling for the No. 4 spot in the northern division and the right to participate in the annual tournament while Shaw and Livingstone are confronted with a similar problem in the south.

Both the Blue Bears and the Shaw Bears face difficulty. Livingstone has a Friday night date with Virginia Union in Richmond and Shaw must face St. Augustine's Friday night and Winston-Salem Saturday night in Raleigh.

Each team has a 6-9 league log. Shaw needs both triumphs for a clearcut path to the tourney. However, should Shaw win one and lose one and if Livingstone gets bumped by Virginia Union, Shaw would still get the invitation.

Livingstone's chances are slim since the Blue Bears would have to defeat Virginia Union in Richmond and then hope for Shaw to lose one or both of their remaining two contests.

The outcome of the big battle in Princess Anne, Maryland Saturday night between Morgan State and the University of Maryland on the Eastern Shores will decide the MEAC champion.

### HERE AND THERE.....

If J.C. Smith wins the southern division title, the Golden Bulls would advance to the NAIA District 26 Playoffs with either Elon or Guilford, Barber-Scotia and Gardner-Webb. There is a strong possibility that the Golden Bulls would have to play Barber-Scotia in the first rounds. The contest would be played on the home court of the team with the best NAIA record. At the moment, both JCSU and Barber-Scotia own 8-2 records against NAIA quintets.

Dr. L.T. Walker, commissioner of the MEAC conference has received commitments from three service stations along I-85 who say they will be open on the Sunday following the MEAC Tournament in Baltimore. These stations have promised Dr. Walker that they would have gas available on an unlimited basis. They are the Phillip 66 Station at Stuckey's, Exit One Road; Shell Station, Wise, N.C.; and the Texaco Station, No. 17 at Fairmont Warrenton.

"South bound spectators returning home from the tournament will be able to get sufficient gas," Dr. Walker assures.



TACKLE SIGNS WITH BEARS--Mr. and Mrs. Hurley Mulkey of Durham, North Carolina witnessed the event of their son Patrick signing a grant-in-aid with the Livingstone College Fighting Bears (Salisbury, N.C.) Fred D. Ponder, athletic director is at right.

### For Livingstone

## Holman Signs 5 Top Football Athletes

Livingstone College of Salisbury got its recruiting program in high gear last week with the signing of five top candidates for its football squad.

### Darrel Potts

### Is Our "Prep

### Of The Week"

By ALAN ROUNDTREE  
Post Sports Writer  
Word quickly spread throughout the Division 9 teams of the Southwestern 4-A Conference that West Charlotte High's Basketball team had a secret weapon.

Everyone knew of the talents of Phil and Eric Harris but few knew of "The Broom." The Broom, as he is called by his teammates is 6-3 center-forward Darrel Potts. Potts garnered the nickname because of his uncanny style of grabbing rebounds and triggering the West Charlotte fastbreak.

He had his finest game of the season on Monday night when he scored a season high 18 points, grabbed 12 rebounds, and blocked five shots as the Lions defeated East Mecklenburg High in the round of the division playoffs.

Potts, who came into the game averaging less than eight points per contest, was more impressed with his rebounding and shot blocked statistics than his point total.

"Points don't make a real difference with me," said the slender leaper. "We've got a lot of people here who can score and it wouldn't matter if I scored or not."

"My job is to get rebounds and get the ball out to our guards."

"We are getting together inside now and the lineup we use now is our most powerful one," said Potts.

Assistant football coach Andrew Littlejohn signed 19-year-old Patrick Mulkey to a grant-in-aid which is renewable over the next four years providing Mulkey produces both scholastically and athletically.

During period, head football coach was up in Winston-Salem signing four football stars at Parkland High School. Herman Cuthrell, David

Smith, Joseph Branson and Joe Jordan each agreed to sign an athletic grant-in-aid with Livingstone College, bringing the total to five athletes who Holman believes can start with the Blue Bears as freshmen next campaign.

"We're in need of interior linemen and defensive backs in order to finish No. 1 in the CIAA next season," Holman explained.

## West Charlotte's Lions; Championship Contenders

by ALAN ROUNDTREE  
Post Sports Writer

No one felt the wrath of the forced school busing more than West Charlotte football coach Rudy Abrams.

Abrams had to watch his 20 member team battle through another disappointing season while such schoolboy stars as Thad Bonapart and Clayton Pride walked by the Lions' campus daily on their way to their respective high schools.

The basketball season is almost over now and the West Charlotte basketball team is faring much better than the football team although Coach

Charles McCullough can remember the days when a 6-5 center at West Charlotte was unheard of.

This season, after going through a number of internal problems, McCullough may be on the verge of accomplishing his greatest coaching triumph as the Lions seek to advance in state playoff competition.

No longer blessed with towering stars like Goo Kennedy or Crack Davis or the razor sharp passing skills of Dwight Durant or the pure shooting of Darrel Cherry, McCullough has molded a group of extremely willing

youngsters into a championship contender.

In Eric Harris, McCullough has one of the finest players to come out of Mecklenburg County in some time. And by the veteran mentor's own admission, "Eric compares favorably with some of the best players I've ever coached." That's pretty good company when you consider that the Lion's were a mainstay in state competition during the mid-60's. They were also one of the few teams to handle famed Laurinburg Institute with its famed star Charlie Scott.

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# HEAR .....

## Coach Joe Alston

### Tell It Like It Is!

# 12:30 P.M.

## Each Saturday Afternoon



- Interviews
- CIAA Personalities
- Film Highlights

### THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL!

Film Highlights of Joe Alston making game adjustments in the Smith locker room during halftime.

with

CURT PETERS  
BOB HICE  
BILL FOSTER

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Channel 9

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