

Sports Beat

with Bill Johnson



MCL Baseball Roundup

Hawks Cruise Into Second Place; Giants Continue Firm Hold On Top Position

By BILL JOHNSON
Post Manager-Editor

SAY YOU SAW IT HERE.....

Walter "Dub" Cuthbertson, who believes in doing things in a great big way, is leaving the local baseball scene in grand style here this weekend. An instrument in the tremendous growth of the popular Mecklenburg County Baseball league since the mid-60's, Cuthbertson is retiring as manager-owner of the Charlotte Hawks.

He earlier announced his intentions to leave his beloved team in the capable hands of Johnny Davis, but no one listened. However, on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at Griffith Park, Cuthbertson is going to make it official, when a couple of baseball games will be played in his honor.

"Dub" is best remembered as a fighter. He's without a doubt one of the finest gentlemen you'll ever meet -- in civilian dress, that is. However, once he dons the baseball uniform, Cuthbertson lets everyone know that he's out to win.

He generally is restless once the weather starts warming, and, for the past 20 years, he has spent the great majority of his summers patrolling the base lines in ball parks throughout North and South Carolina. It's going to be interesting to see if "Dub" Cuthbertson's retirement from the game, the athletes, the other owners and the fans he loved so dearly is going to become lasting.

It's not going to be an easy decision to keep.

While we respect his opinion -- his decisions are always built on honesty and high respect for others -- but we find it difficult to go along with his retirement statement about this reporter being the best president to serve the Mecklenburg County Baseball League. We do feel that Cuthbertson was on the right track with his pick of Richard "Hank" Sartor as the "best umpire" and Ulysses "Rabbit" Withers as the "best opposing manager who was the hardest to beat."

The Hawks will lock up with the league-leading Hoskins Giants in Griffith Park Saturday afternoon and they'll meet the Royal Bums on Sunday. Each contest is slated to begin at 2:30 o'clock. In addition to free prizes that will be given away, the management will give away a big barrel of Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Wonder what happened to the idea of cooking fish in the black pot bellied wash pots? Could it be that Dub's crew have become urbanized?

HITTING THE HIGH PLACES.....

All and Foreman will split 10 million big ones in their September heavyweight bout. Ali is talking of victory but the pretty boy is either forgetting or overlooking the fact that Foreman has put his last eight opponents to sleep in two rounds and one didn't last beyond the first round.

Professional football fans are going to get a rare treat this summer. CBS is putting together a series of half-hour programs which highlight historical moments of past NFL championships ... Norfolk State has won its first CIAA baseball championship. The Spartans defeated Saint Augustine's and Fayetteville State last weekend to annex the title.

Hank Aaron's 200 thousand dollar salary with the Atlanta Braves will be small in comparison to his take for television commercials this year. The slugging baseball star is pushing products like Oh Henry, Brut and a soap.

Bobby Bond, may be one of the best of the current crop of baseball players, but the super San Francisco Giants outfielder is not playing like a top performer. He's hitting a puny .179.

A&T will hire its first white football coach in July. George Wheeler, former head coach at Albemarle High School, will break the color barrier at the famed Greensboro school. He will serve as offensive coordinator. Hornsby Howell's staff also includes Matt Brown, coordinator of offensive backfield; Mel Groomes, coordinator of defensive backfield and scouting; Wylie Harris, coordinator of defense; and Murray Neely, coordinator of offensive line.

The revitalized Charlotte Hawks continue to pursue the league-leading Hoskins Giants. The chase may come to an end this Saturday in Griffith Park.

This is the day the long-time rivals will clash for top place in the Mecklenburg County Semipro baseball league.

Hoskins downed the Gunn Colts, 9-1, last week behind the steady pitching of lefthanders Steve Patterson and Floyd McDowell, to keep their firm hold on first place with a perfect 5-0 league record.

Johnny Davis' Hawks, meanwhile, were edging the Huntersville Raiders, 5-4, in a 10-inning encounter to take over the sole possession of second place with a 5-1 league slate.

And the Morris Field

Rangers inched their way into a three-way tie for third place with a 19-1 blasting of the winless Charlotte Eagles. The other MCL decision went to the Stein Hall Jets, who defeated the slumping Royal Bums, 5-4.

The Giants supported the fine six-hit hurling of Patterson and McDowell--each gave up three hits -- with a strong 16-hit attack on Gunn Colts pitching.

Bobby Jones, Pete Spears, Harry Morrow and James Withers were the big hitters. Jones stroked three singles, Spears Morrow and Withers each stroked a single and a double.

Anjay Orr set the pace for the losers, who now own a 3-3 mark.

The Hawks didn't break clear of the Huntersville stronghold until Willie Smith smashed a homerun in the

eighth inning to deadlock the score at 4 apiece. The second baseman also figured in the tie-breaker in the 10th frame when he walked and then stole second. Smith scampered all the way home when the throw from the catcher eluded the second baseman for an error.

Andrew Chisholm, Jim Irvin, David Berry and Jimmy McMillan kept the Hawks in contention with their timely hitting. Chisholm contributed a pair of singles to the 9-hit assault while Irvin and McMillan were also hitting two singles, Berry a triple and Smith a homerun. McMillan drove in two runs.

Roosevelt Davis, who pitched a strong seven-hitters for his first win of the season, struck out 11 Raiders and walked only four batters. His opponent--Bill Whitby--was reached for nine hits in absorbing the loss. Whitby fanned five and walked two.

Whitby also shared hitting honors with Oscar Hunt and John McCauley. He had a single, double and a homerun, while Hunt was hitting two singles and McCauley one safe blow.

The Rangers blend 14 safeties with the airtight hurling of Londell McClary, Randy Falls and Ed Thompson Jr. for their 19-1 rout of the Eagles.

Murphy Morris led the assault with three singles and

four runs driven in. The Rangers total also included a double and a single by McClary, two singles by Alfred Thompson, doubles by

Lawrence Izzard and a single by Randy Falls.

John Clawson pounded a home run for the Eagles' lone

David Harris and Alphonso "Shot" Clawson also hit well for the losers, who now have dropped five straight decisions.

Hawks Battles Hoskins

Giants For MCL Lead

Walter "Dub" Cuthbertson is officially retiring from the local semipro baseball scene. And the occasion will be marked by two baseball games here this weekend.

The Charlotte Hawks, the nine Dub nursed so remarkably well during the past 20 years will play host to the Hoskins Giants Saturday afternoon at Griffith Park. The Hawks will encounter the Royal Bums in Griffith Park Sunday afternoon. Both contests are slated to begin at 2:30 p.m.

Hoskins is leading the Mecklenburg County league with a brilliant 5-0 record. The Hawks, under the able direction of new coach Johnny Davis, is one game back in

second place with a 5-1 mark. The Royal Bums are not playing up to pre-season expectations of two victories and four setbacks.

Davis is expected to pitch big Jim Irvin against Hoskins' ace lefthander Steve Patterson.

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