

Sports Beat



IT OCCURS TO ME THAT.....

Virginia Union will walk away with the championship of the fifth annual Charlotte Tip-Off Basketball Tournament here next weekend. Neither North Carolina A&T nor Johnson C. Smith are ready to play at their best and, it would appear that Barber-Scotia is not capable of pulling an upset.

Reports from Richmond, Va. say Virginia Union is so good that coach Robert D. Moore has demoted All-CIAA great Ralph Hunter to the second team. Reasons given are that the freshmen Moore brought in are ready for stardom in the tough CIAA. Moore has carried 6-8 center Donald Whitsett, 6-7 forward Lamont Echols, 6-6 Wilbur Preston and 6-6 Eric Wesley for his 1975 Panthers. And the upset Virginia Union pinned on top-ranked Tennessee State in Richmond Saturday night indicated the Panthers are indeed ready.

Willie Davis will be a household word among football fans who watch the NFL action each weekend. You can put this reporter down as one of the fans who thoroughly enjoy Davis. The former Green Bay Packer is as refreshing as the morning dew.

Grambling has taken over the top spot in the final Mutual Black Network football ratings. For what its worth, coach Eddie Robinson's famed Tigers were named on eight of the 13 first place votes by the board of black college coaches last week. Alcorn fell to second place following a 19-13 setback to Jackson State and Tennessee State following in the fifth and sixth spots.

South Carolina State, Norfolk State, Virginia Union and North Carolina Central rounded out the top 10 in that order.

If Grambling and South Carolina State played for the National Black College Championship in New Orleans last week, please tell me what Norfolk State and Tuskegee Institute will clash for in Atlanta a week from Saturday.

Sudden Though - Federal Aid To Education should start with the teaching of arithmetic in Washington, D. C.

St. Augustine's must be for REALThe Falcons come to town to engage Johnson C. Smith in a CIAA headliner here Saturday night with an upset victory over the highly-ranked Aggies of North Carolina A&T State.

Remember when St. Paul's lowly Tigers were considered a "breather" on the football and basketball schedules? The Tigers improved their status considerably with a surprised triumph over Winston-Salem State Monday night. They must have caught the mighty Rams with A&T's Aggies on their minds!

The first of two annual meetings between Winston-Salem State and North Carolina A&T State in the Greensboro Coliseum Saturday night is well worth the drive to Greensboro. That attraction rates the spotlight as the athletic attraction of the week for the area.

Bet you didn't know that WBT-TV will not carry the NFL football game here Saturday afternoon. Seems as if there is a public law which prohibits television stations from airing a professional game if a college or secondary school football game is being played within 75 miles.

The Shrine Bowl, which is not open to the general public, is being played at Memorial Stadium that afternoon.

Men, like tacks, are useful if they have good heads and are pointed in the right direction.

Here Next Weekend

Virginia Union Favored To Capture Tip-Off Tournament

The annual Charlotte Tip-Off Basketball Tournament will begin Friday, December 21 and will feature the best field in the tournaments five-year history.

Traditionally strong North Carolina A&T State University of the MEAC will join Barber-Scotia, and Virginia Union and Johnson C. Smith of the CIAA in the two-day tournament to be held at the Charlotte Park Center.

Host Johnson C. Smith will be led by 6-8 senior George Cooper, 6-6 sophomore Robert Lewis and 5'11" junior Chelsea Lewis. The Golden Bulls, who lost their season opener to North Carolina Central, are also beginning the year under new coach Jerome "Jerry" Fitch. They're the pre-season pick to capture the CIAA Southern Division Title.

Virginia Union, which is unbeaten, has a great collection of cagers, led by All-CIAA great Ralph Hunter. Hunter and the addition of four classy freshmen make the Panthers a strong favorite to succeed North Carolina A&T as champions of the tournament. Moore is high on 6-8 center Donald Whitsett, 6-7 forward Lamont, 6-6 forward Eric Wesley and 6-6 forward Wilbur Preston.

The defending champs, North Carolina A&T has a pair of outstanding cagers in Allen Spruill and Lon Smith and a budding star in Ron Johnson. The Aggies are boosting Smith and Spruill for All-American honors. Smith is a 6-8, 235 pound junior forward and Spruill is a senior guard who is 6-feet, 5-inches tall and weighs



THE BARBER-SCOTIA SABRES

Play Here Next Weekend

180 pounds. 6-7 Johnson has been named co-captain of the A&T team and also has been picked to several pre-season All-MEAC teams.

Barber-Scotia is of unknown quality. Coach Aldon Coefield

First Family To Welcome Visitors

North Carolina's Executive Mansion will be decked out in old-fashioned Christmas decorations this year, and Governor and Mrs. Jim Holshouser are inviting the public to come and see it.

The First Family will welcome visitors at an open house at the Mansion Sunday, December 15, from 2:00 to 5:00

p.m. In keeping with the old-fashioned theme, the Christmas trees will be strung with fresh cranberries and popcorn. Colonial ornaments, fresh fruits, live greenery, and candles will be used to decorate the Mansion.

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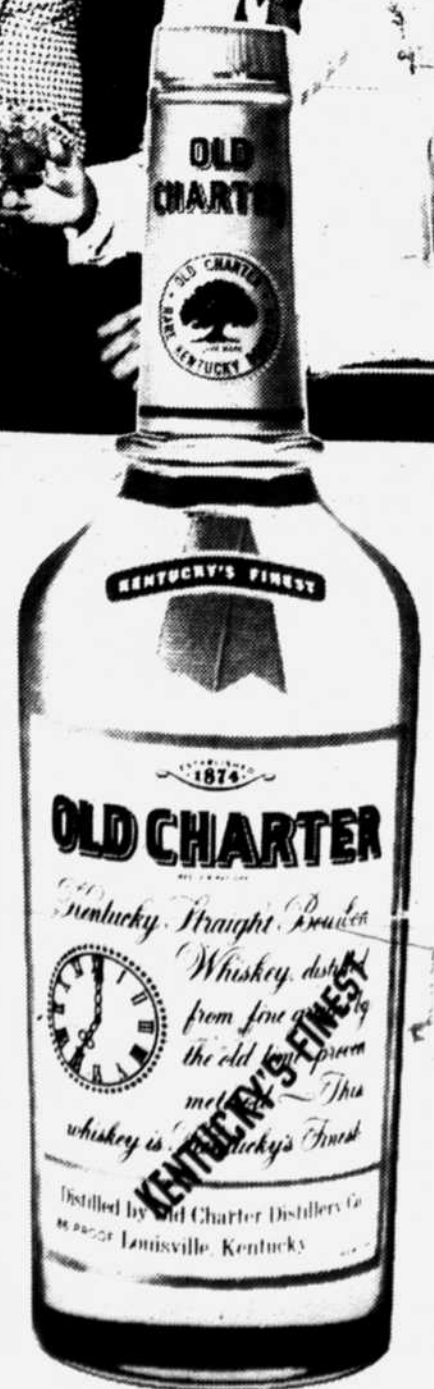
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