

# Sports Beat



## New Bulldog

### Harding Football Star Bubbling Over With Joy

by James Cuthbertson  
Post Staff Writer

The enthusiasm of 18-year-old Harding High School football star, Thomas O'Leary was ever present as he discussed the grant-in-aid agreement that he has signed Saturday with the Bulldogs of South Carolina State University.

Smiling, the six feet one inch, 255 tackle said that he'd like to think the one person that is most responsible for getting him into South Carolina State University.

That person, he said, is Harding assistant principal William Blakeney who is a member of South Carolina State alumni. "I appreciated the help that our assistant principal, Mr. Blakeney, gave me. He had a lot to do with getting me into State," smiled O'Leary, who throws the spotlight on the Harding track team in the Spring.

The big senior two platoon tackle for Harding, who expects to play either tackle or guard at the Orangeburg, S. C. school, signed the first day colleges were permitted to sign high school players.

O'Leary had been contacted by the Eagles of North Carolina Central University, the Bulls of Johnson C. Smith University, and the Cata-

mounts of Western Carolina University, but chose the South Carolina school because "I thought I would have a good chance of making the traveling team if I showed the coach that I have the ability."

When I went down to South Carolina State, it seemed like an alright place. Sixteen seniors had graduated and only one lineman was starting," said the potential Business Administration major.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben



TACKLE TOM O'LEARY  
...6'1", 255-pounds

Lucky of 3617 Braden Dr. played football two years for the Rams who made it to the state playoffs this year only to lose to High Point Andrews in the quarterfinals 21 to 6.

He went out when he was at South, but an operation prevented him from playing his sophomore season. Head Coach Willie Jeffries of the Bulldogs impressed O'Leary who said his biggest moment

came when Harding beat West Charlotte at West Charlotte 25 to 20.

Does this future Bulldog have designs on the major leagues. "I am not looking that far in advance" he said. "I'm just going to concentrate on making the traveling team at South Carolina State. If I play to the best of my ability, I may make the pros eventually," he said.

### Area's Top Tennis Players

### To Compete In Indoor Meet

Seven of the area's top tennis players have indicated they will participate in the Carolinas Invitational Tennis Tournament which will be played at the new Charlotte Indoor Courts on Jan. 24 - 26.

Co-chairman Arthur Culbertson and Bill Huelin said Robbie Smith, Keith Richardson, John Sardi, Allen Morris, Davis Babb and Scott Dillon are among the early entries.

Invitations have been sent to many top seeded players in North and South Carolina. Play will be in men's doubles and women's doubles with 16 teams competing in each group.

The tournament will be held at The Charlotte Tennis Courts on Sharon Road West, a facility that has six indoor courts.

This will be a unique tournament for Charlotte," Culbertson said, "because of the indoor courts. Previously, winter tennis around here was almost non-existent."

Huelin said that early entries point to a strong tournament. "Robbie Smith is the pro at Sugar Mountain and is a highly regarded player," he said. "He probably will team up with Gene Hamilton from Asheville, a former state champion."

Richardson, an Appalachian State University player, is currently the Southern Conference champion and number 1 ranked player in South Carolina. Morris, of Greensboro, is a former state champion, while Sardi of N. C. State, Dillon of Myers Park High, and Babb of Appalachian are ranked one-two-three in the state 18-year-old division. All are from Charlotte.

In the women's division, Charlotte's Bev Culbertson is the first entry.

Play will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the public will be welcome to attend.

## Eastern Golf Tournament

### Set For Feb. 18-22

The Bondu's Bon-Adventure Eastern Airlines Golf Tournament has been set for February 18-22, at the Buena Vista Golf and Country Club in Lake Buena Vista, the host community to Walt Disney World, near Orlando, Fla.

The Royal - Inn and Travelodge of Lake Buena Vista, both located "around the corner" from the golf course, are co-headquarters hotels.

The tournament is a 90-hole shot-gun type event (if you make the cut after 72 holes); has six flights for men, four flights for women, three flights for junior-senior men and three flights for senior men.

Social activities will include a "Find Old Friends" buffet sponsored by Miller High Life Brewing Company; a buffet sponsored by Eastern Airlines; a Polynesian Luau sponsored by Gulf Oil Corporation; a five-day putting contest for golfers and an evening splash party and putting contest for non-golfers sponsored by Philip Morris Company; a House Party in honor of George Kirby and the Eastern Airlines sponsored Trophy Awards Ball.

Other features are trophies for medalists, closest-to-the-hole, long drive and putting contests and booby prizes.

Regular entry fees include everything except food, tips, special tours and transport-

tation to and from Gateway Inn, where special rates have been arranged for accommodations.

The tournament's Social Directress will keep non-

golfers busy and help plan tours or trips to Seaworld, Busch Gardens, Cypress Gardens, Cape Kennedy, and DISNEY WORLD, which will be at a minimal cost through the hotels.



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### AN OPEN LETTER TO SANTA CLAUSE..... DEAR SANTA.....

Remember me? I'm the dirty old man who asked a year ago for lots of broods, booze and loot. You didn't respond in a positive manner. Please consider my second request to fill my stocking with the things I like best ... Also, you didn't send coach Eddie McGirt very much luck with his Johnson C. Smith University football team. Shame on you!

Give Andrew Brewton a well deserved pat-on-the-back for a job well done in directing the activities of the popular Mecklenburg County Semipro Baseball League....And fat daddy with the fake whiskers you were not too kind to Dub Cuthbertson during the past baseball campaign. His Charlotte Hawks deserved a better fate.

How about a great big hand for the wonderful job coach Baxter Holman is doing with his Livingstone Blue Bears. Direct insuranceman Charles Ramseur and picture-taker James Peeler to the Fountain Of Youth with the hopes that they'll play better golf next season. Don't improve their game too much. Okay?

Let the sun shine in the hearts of all of those who hate...And, please, DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE BROADS, BOOZE AND THE LOOT. Give all the little boys around the world some nice little girls and vice versa.

I am still hoping for a match-up in a great, big basketball tournament between the top four teams in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association and the first four in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. Maybe with all the praying about Peace On Earth and Good will towards Men, you can give a little extra to the top officials of the two Black conferences. They need to get together, don't you think?

And Santa while we're on the subject, don't you think a football championship contest between the top teams in the two leagues would attract a record crowd and make a lot of money?

And Santa: Could you please explain why you are still using reindeers and sleigh when the swinging cats around town are wheeling Mark IV's and HOGS? If you'd give the CIAA another successful basketball tournament, it would make lots of people happy. Bring loads of love and happiness to all of those who are sad and lonely.

Let all of the fishermen keep the big ones that have been getting away .... Give the Charlotte Chapter of the Johnson C. Smith University Alumni Association a sellout crowd for its annual Tip-Off Basketball Tournament at the Charlotte Park Center.

If you have any of those can't miss sure shot shells, size 16, leave some at my house. Let the sun shine brightly in the hearts of all those who hate. A set of golf clubs, a rod and reel, a couple of suits and sports shirts WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY....Along with the BROADS, BOOZE AND LOOT, of course!

Better health to all of the wonderful people who are ill and a broader outlook to all of those who are down-in-the-dumps. Give all the big boys around the country some nice big girls and vice versa.

Remember Charles Williams, the dapper barber? Give him a steadier hand, especially one that handles the razor. Another thought, ole boy! Please tell me how it is possible for you to be in all of the department stores at the same time???? Kinda confusing to the ole lady, eh!  
..HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPIER NEW YEAR!!

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