

Sports Beat

BY BILL JOHNSON



SAY YOU SAW IT THERE

The Par Busters are sponsoring their annual Four Ball Tournament at Sunset Hill Golf Course Saturday and Sunday. The popular event will have five flights, including a championship flight, with valuable prizes being awarded to the first three team winners in each flight.

John Love says his organization will also give prizes to the longest ball hit on number 11 and to the golfer who hit closest to hole number 6.

Charlie Cox of Johnson C. Smith, who has acquired the fancy name "meet coordinator", informs that plans are being finalized for the 10th annual Johnson C. Smith University Invitational Track and Field Relays, slated for Saturday, April 15 at the West Charlotte High School track.

Remember Buck Buchanan, former all-pro defensive tackle for the Kansas City Chiefs? He's now the new defensive line coach for the Cleveland Browns.

Former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, who's 63, is reportedly recovering at his home in Las Vegas following a four-month stay in the hospital. According to his wife, the Brown Bomber, who held the title almost 12 years, is confined to a wheelchair but should be able to walk again after therapy.

Norfolk State College surprised the media last week with the naming of Lucias Mitchell as its head basketball coach. Informed sources say Mitchell brings an overall 264-75 record into the CIAA. He replaces Charlie Christian, who fared badly in the regular season, but won the tournament championship with an effort that brought him "Tournament Coach of the Year" honors.

Wonder why Joe Frazier wants to return to the rings? The former heavyweight champion will box South African champ Gerrie Boetzee in Johannesburg on April 15. He retired from the ring nearly a year ago. Perhaps it was the reported \$632,500, largest amount paid a boxer appearing in a South African ring, that provided the answer.

North Carolina A&T, which will display its football talent in a spring contest at west Charlotte's stadium a week from Saturday, will have three captains next fall. Seniors George Small, Thomas Warren and Wheeler Brown have been elected tri-captains of the Aggie Squad. Charlotte native Frank Carr is one of the reasons Aggie Supporters believe A&T's football picture is so rosy.

What does the World Boxing Conference hope to gain by stripping Leon Spinks of his heavyweight crown? They could have waited a few months and let either Kenny Norton or Muhammad Ali do their dirty work for them.

Look for Reggie Candy Bar to hit the candy counters in local stores shortly.

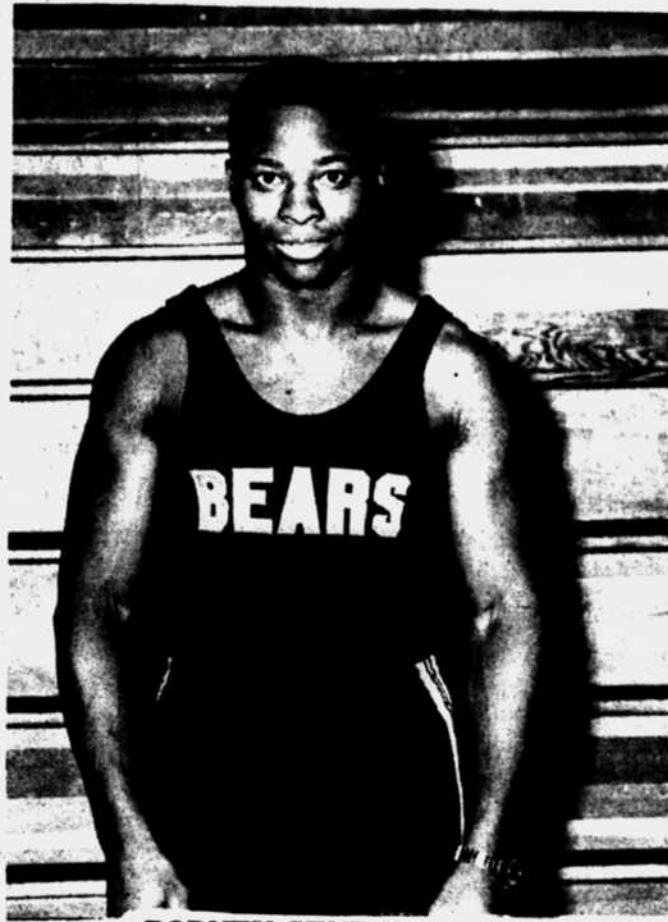
It would appear that the makers of those shiny special built automobiles are about to crank up the assembly lines, because the professional basketball players, their best customers, are about to come into large fortune.

The team that wins the upcoming NBA Playoffs will receive a top prize worth \$337,500. That's a lot of loot to divide among 12 men. The losers will not go away crying as they will pocket more than one hundred grands.

The team that finish the season with the best overall record will receive \$100,000 and each of the first round playoff winners will get \$20,000 while the losers will be paid \$20,000 each. The conference championship series is worth another \$50,000 to the winning team and \$35,000 to the losers.

That perhaps explains why there are backboards and hoops in every backyard in town.

With the playoffs approaching, the acquisition of Ted McClain, former Carolina Cougar stand-out, could easily prove to be the Philadelphia 76er's most important player movement of the season.



RODNEY GENE HAMPTON
...Livingstone senior

R. G. Hampton Receives Athlete Of Year Award

SALISBURY--Livingstone College student, Rodney Gene Hampton, a senior, Biology Major from Paulsboro, New Jersey received the College Athlete of the Year Award from the South Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association in Cherry Hill, New Jersey at a formal Banquet last night, March 22, 1978.

NC A&T Signs 3

Miami Gridders

GREENSBORO, N. C. - Jim McKinley, head football coach at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, N. C., has announced the signing of three outstanding prep football players from Miami, Florida.

Kareem Cunningham, a 6-2, 210 pound running back who played his prep ball at Coral Gables High; Al Jones, a 6-5, 220 pound offensive lineman who prepped at Hialeah Miami Lakes; and Rodney Williams, a 6-4, 215 pound tight end who also played at Hialeah Lakes, will enroll at A&T in the fall.

"Cunningham, Jones, and Williams were all highly recruited student-athletes, and we are certainly happy they decided to pursue their academic as well as athletic careers at North Carolina A&T," said McKinley, who guided the Aggies to a 7-4 season in 1977, good for second place in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

"All three have excellent high school backgrounds and have had the benefit of some good coaching. We expect them to make a big contribution to our program this season and in the future."

He received the award for being both an outstanding athlete and for his academic honors and achievements. He is a graduate of Paulsboro High School, Paulsboro, N. J. where he actively participated in the various sports there. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cornell Hampton of Paulsboro.

During his four years at Livingstone College, Rodney has been an outstanding wrestler, a four year letterman at 190 lbs. weigh-in, he is undefeated in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association and has been the Region VII Champion in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics four times.

He won the CIAA Wrestler of the Year Award this year, the Most Pins Award in the NAIA in Region VII, and placed 4th in the NAIA Nationals. He has been a three time NAIA All-American; three time Champion at the A&T Invitational; and he received the Livingstone College Most Outstanding Athlete in 1976 and 1977. His overall Collegiate Wrestling record for the four years is 81 wins and 7 losses.

Rodney is also a two year Letterman in football and is outstanding as kicker and punter for the team.

He plans to attend Medical School and has been accepted at the Illinois Medical School of Podiatry in Chicago where he will start in the fall.

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Mecklenburg Orioles Meet Bums, Rangers

Two big baseball games are on tap here this weekend for members of the newly organized Jackie Robinson Semi-Pro Baseball League.

The Mecklenburg Orioles, who won the 1977 Triple County League playoffs, will engage the Royal Bums Saturday afternoon at Crockett Park, beginning at 2:30 o'clock.

Sunday afternoon will find the Orioles facing the Morris Field Rangers at the Harding High School Field in a contest that was originally scheduled for last Sunday, but was postponed because of inclement weather. This game starts at 3 p.m.

The Orioles, managed by the popular Minnie Mendoza, are being viewed as the top team in the league. Mendoza will field a powerful lineup, including former organized ballstandouts Joe Talley, Ber-to Cueto, Charlie Helms, Dennis Aberthort and Nectar Velazquez.

Willie Barringer, manager of the Bums, will counter with a veteran lineup including hard-hitting designated hitter John Harris, and Terry Bel-ton, James Davis and Fred Stafford. Barringer also has high hopes for Greg Randolph and pitchers William Harlee and Ronnie Hancock.

Harlee performed in the Atlanta Braves organization for four years. The young lefthander's blazing fast ball is most welcomed by Barringer.

The Rangers are also counted among the league's top teams. Manager Herman Thomas will introduce six new players, including first baseman Albert Turner, pitchers Harold Robinson and Lafayette

Current, outfielder Charles Biddle and infielder Alfonso Mobley and catcher Randy Stitts.

Thomas reports veterans Londell McClary, Roger Coleman, Elijah Haynes, Tim and Murphy Morris, Bobby Reynolds, Charlie Houston, Harold Adams and Randy Falls have looked good in pre-season practice sessions

Harley performed in the

S. C. State Releases Grid Slate

ORANGEBURG--The South Carolina State College football team will face Virginia State College for the first time in 42 years in the opening game of the Bulldogs' 1978 season, according to athletic director Dr. Milton Hunter, who released the team's schedule Friday.

Another addition to the list of Coach Willie Jefferies' opponents for the upcoming football season is perennial powerhouse Grambling University, a team the Bulldogs have not met since their 1974 confrontation in the Pelican Bowl in New Orleans.

The 1978 football schedule includes four home games besides the home opener with Virginia State Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and clashes with the Bulldogs' six Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference foes. On Sept. 9, S. C. State

College will travel to Dover, Del. to meet the Delaware State Hornets at 1:30 p.m.; and North Carolina A&T is on the calendar for an 8 p.m. meeting in Greensboro Sept. 16. Still on the road, the Bulldogs square off with Howard University at Meadowland, N. J. in a 1:30 p.m. meeting Sept. 23.

Taking a break from conference action, the Bulldogs come home on Sept. 30 to host Alcorn University at 2 p.m. in Bulldog Stadium; and a 2 p.m. contest with Johnson C. Smith is tap for Oct. 7 in Orangeburg.

Conference opponent Morgan State will host the Bulldogs to a 1:30 p.m. match Oct. 14 in Baltimore; Newberry College will be the visiting team in Bulldog Stadium at 2 p.m. Oct. 21. Homecoming has been set

for Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. in Bulldog Stadium, with N.C. Central University being the only conference opponent the Bulldogs face on home ground during the 1978 season.

The final conference contest is set for 1:30 p.m. at Princess Anne, Md. against Maryland-Eastern Shore on Nov. 4. Coach Eddie Robinson's Grambling team hosts the Bulldogs in their final match-up of the regular season, a 1:30 p.m. game at Grambling, La.

South Carolina State College finished the 1977 season with a 9-1-1 record, including a Bicentennial Bowl win over previously undefeated Winston-Salem State University. The Bulldogs unblemished 6-0 mark in the MEAC earned them their fourth consecutive conference crown.

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