

Sports Deal



BY BILL JOHNSON

TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS.....
If one is to believe Phil Busher, Ronnie Mathews will provide immediate help for the Johnson C. Smith University basketball team this winter. The new recruit is a 6'2", 175-pound forward from Rockville, Md. According to Phil, he was just about "all-everything" in his hometown while playing for Rockville High School.

Busher also informs that North Carolina A&T State will renew its basketball relationship with the Golden Bulls. The bitter rivals will meet in a home-and-home series, beginning with the 1980-81 campaign. Coach Robert Moore has what Busher calls "one of the toughest schedules in the CIAA." Phil concluded, "the key to the Bulls' success this season is 6'9" center James George." Busher obviously believes that if George goes, so goes the Bulls! (No pun intended)

Commissioner Ken Free of the MEAC will conduct a 1980 Football Press Luncheon Friday, July 25 in Greensboro at the Holiday Inn-Four Seasons, beginning at 11:30 a.m., featuring the leagues six head coaches. Of special significance will be the introduction of Ruddy Hubbard of Florida A&M and Bobby Frazier of Bethune-Cookman College, the newest members of the conference.

Young Darryl Strawberry, who received a bank full of money shortly after he graduated from high school, has been named the winner of the 1980 Tanqueray Achievement Award for excellence in amateur sports. He recently signed a \$300,000 contract with the New York Mets.

Bet you didn't know this!...If the California Angels finished the season in last place in the American League West Division, they will become the first team in the history of modern major league baseball to fall all the way from first to last place in the final standings in a year's time.

Supporters are rooting for quarterback Vince Evans to regain his early form with the Chicago Bears. He created quite a ripple in the Windy City a year ago when he took over as the first string signal caller and was going great before being sidelined with an injury. Evans is well again and is looking to become the Bears' Number One quarterback.

Walter Payton has set 20 club records with the Chicago Bears in what must be one of the most scintillating careers ever in professional football. Incidentally, professional football returns Saturday, August 2 when the San Diego Chargers encounter Green Bay at Canton, Ohio. ABC will televise the contest, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

You'd lose your week's wages if you'd bet that Tom Landry is the winningest coach in the National Football League. The famed Dallas Cowboys' head coach is the oldest mentor in the league from the standpoint of service (20 years), but he ranks seventh among the coaches in won-lost percentages. Don Shula of Miami is the best according to percentages, having posted a lofty .723 mark with 187 victories and only 70 defeats. Landry will begin the new season with .614 percent.

Look for the Detroit Lions, who are not noted for appearances on national television, to get more TV exposure this fall. The network people are no bumbies and they will more than likely keep Billy Sims, the Lions' high-price rookie, on the tubes. Bethune-Cookman and Prairie View A&M are the most recent black schools to move up to Division I from Division II. Would you believe that nine members of the staff of National Basketball Association referees are from the Philadelphia area?

Columbia Broadcasting System has assigned Irv Cross to the "NFL Today" studio team. CBS has also dropped Paul Hornung from its sportscasting lineup.

The San Francisco Giants are planning a "Willie McCovey Day" in honor of the game's most popular player...Did you know that Dave Parker of the Pittsburgh Pirates earns more money than all eight teams paid 200 players in the depression year of 1932?

Inflation and the sagging economy has taken a big bite out of major league baseball attendance. The American League is playing to 5,557 fewer fans this season while the National League's attendance has fallen off by 75,000; Houston, Pittsburgh and Oakland are having banner seasons at the gate.

"Wish I had said that!"...David Lamm, sports editor of the Jacksonville Times-Journal says Earl Jones, 6-10 basketball star from Washington, D.C. chose the University of the District of Columbia over the University of California at Los Angeles "because it's easier to spell UDC than UCLA."

Black athletes continue to be a dominate force in the National Football League... There were only six Anglo-Saxons chosen among the first 56 players in the recent draft.



James "Gum" McClure Golf Tournament officials, James Bouler, left, and J.D. Grier pose with Charlotte Post reporter Anthony Hayes.

Golf Tournament Set To Honor James "Gum" McClure

By Anthony Hayes
Post Staff Writer

Take a genueman...an extreme "gentle-man", mix him with a beautiful personality, and expression, determination and many friends; and you will discover the makings of the late James E. "Gum" McClure. McClure, who died in 1979, will be honored this Saturday (July 19, 1980), at the James E. "Gum" McClure Memorial Golf Tournament.

The tournament will be played in a "Captain's Choice-Two Man Team" style at the Sunset Hills Golf Course (800 Radio Road). Tee-off time is set for 8 a.m., and there will be a \$17. entry fee. The tournament carries the slogan: "Golf is a Gentleman's Game-Let's Keep It That Way," and is being coordinated by tournament director J. L. Bouler, co-director, J.D. Grier, and co-captain, George "Hog" Mobley. Several prizes will highlight the tournament including: a special prize for the shot closest to the hole on 6 & 8; the longest drive on 10, 12 and 15; and free beer on 15 and 13. Trophies will be given to the first 9 spots plus seniors and also a special trophy for the team shooting the highest score.

McClure was in his 70s when he died. He had been living with his sister, Mary Lou Bost, who spoke of him and said, "He learned to play golf at the Charlotte Country Club as a hobby. We all worked on a farm, except my older brother, Fred. When daddy sent him to take Fred his lunch (who worked at the golf course), he would never come straight back home to work on the farm. There were seven boys and the others would cooperate, but "Gum" would not cooperate - he wanted to play golf." She further explained that, "he had a real nice personality. He loved to teach and try to help everybody. It seemed like he would be hurt if he couldn't help someone."

Friends of McClure remember him best for his uncanny ability to play with one club. Tabbed by his friends as "Gum" because he constantly chewed gum, McClure once said, "Back then, there was no such thing as a whole set for us. Somebody would give us an old club and three or four of us would play a round with it. Maybe it would be a putter. Then somebody would give us another club and we'd use it to play the whole course. We's copy the swings of the best players we saw. That's how I learned to play."

According to those who remember him, he not only learned to play, but learned to play well. When McClure was at his peak, black men were denied the opportunity to play in the tournament having white participants. It was not until the early 50s when golf courses became integrated. The Hillcrest Golf Course was the first to make the move. A movement led by several prominent civic leaders later caused integration to spread to Revolution Park.

McClure was best known in the eastern region where some say that he, along with Ralph Alexander and Charles Sifford, were the top black golfers. His most memorable tournaments were played in Knoxville, Asheville, and Winston-Salem, better known as "The horn" due to its geographical locations.

J.D. Grier, one of McClure's best friends, remembering the times that they shared said, "He gave me some of the skills that I used as a player in the Army. In golf, there are times when your mind takes a trip as people watch you. I remember leading the Olympian Golf Tournament (in Olympian, Washington), where the people called me the 'N.C. Sharecropper'."

Perhaps the best description of McClure comes from J. L. Bouler, who says, "We had a father-son relationship both on and off the golf course. He built a foundation for the young players...just like Jackie Robinson opened the doors for baseball-McClure opened the doors for golf."

The NAGA Nationals, an annual tournament for black golfers, will be played here in Charlotte on August 16-17. The tournament will take place at the Crystal Springs Golf Course.

JCSU Upward Bound Athletes Defend Their Olympic Title

Special To The Post

Johnson C. Smith's Upward Bound Program will travel to Pembroke State University to defend its state Olympic title July 17-19. The Smith team, composed of male and female athletes from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools will be aiming for its third straight title.

Teams from UNC-CH, N.C. State, Pembroke, Shaw, Wilson Tech, A&T State, Livingstone, Western Carolina, Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, Chowan College, and UNC-G will compete in softball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, swimming and track and field. Points are awarded in each event and totaled for the overall state champion.

"We'll be pressed hard by N.C. State and Pembroke, but the talent is here for our 3rd title," commented program director John Elliott. Upward Bound participants spend six weeks on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University taking academic classes in basic skills development, art, music, physical education and cultural enrichment trips.

"The Olympics at the end of the year gives the students an opportunity to

meet other program participants in a festive environment of friendly competition," notes Elliott, who is also vice president of the North Carolina Association of Educational Opportunity programs.

Area athletes expected to do well include Reginald Floyd (Harding), Jerry McCorkle (Myers Park) and Juan Harris (Myers Park), who will be out to defend their 440 relay title. Sylvia Houston (Harding) and Terry Curerton (West Charlotte), will defend the girls' 440 relay title. Sylvia also is one of five returning basketball players for the

defending women champs. The men were undefeated in basketball last year returning three starters in Cedrick MacAfee (Harding), Steve McClure (West Meck) and Craig Raye (West Meck). A strong showing is also expected by the swimmers.

Upward Bound coaches include Carlton Yates, Juvenile Court counselor; William Crutchfield, Urban League counselor; Ethel Waterman, Myers Park teacher; Steve Joyner, JCSU women's basketball coach and instructor; and Leslie Egleston, administrative assistant at Myers Park.

Giants K. O.'s Two Opponents

The Hoskins Giants provided plenty of entertainment this past weekend, as they played two exciting games on their homefield. On Saturday, July 12, the Giants played host to the Union County Dodgers and came off with an 8-1 victory. Benny Little, the winning pitcher and a left hander, allowed only 6 hits and 5 base-on balls. He struck out 7.

The power hitters in Saturday's victory for the Giants were Michael Motley, Victor White, and Pete Spear, each with 2 singles.

A large crowd attended the game, the only league team that saw action on Saturday.

On Sunday, the Giants challenged the Northside Bombers, who were bombed as Hoskins exploded for a 9-1 victory. Lloyd Harris Jr., the winning pitcher, was spectacular as he held the Bombers to 1 run and 8 hits. The "big bats" in the victory came from Willie Hancock (1 triple and 2 singles) and Perry Belton (2 singles).

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