

Sports Deal



BY BILL JOHNSON

THE \$.98 RAP SESSION..... Promises are easier to make than to fulfill but people continue to make them carelessly.

Very little is being said in preseason about Chris Ragland, the human tank who runs over people for South Carolina State College. If you recall, the 5-9, 190-pound fireplug rambled over and around people for 1,134 yards and 11 touchdowns in a substitute role last winter. He's the kind of runner the boys from the NFL will keep a close watch on throughout the season. A real prospect, I'd say!

The way Tommy Hearns destroyed Pipino Cuevas has made believers out of a lot of boxing fans. The replay of the fight on television Saturday afternoon left this writer with the option that there's no one around who could defeat the popular Detroit "Hit Man."

Have you heard the one about the hunter and the game warden? It goes like this: The game warden, upon learning the hunter's license was not valid, questioned: Hey! You. What's the idea of hunting with last year's license? The stunned, but quick witted hunter responded: "Oh, I'm only shooting at the birds I missed last year!"

This is no joke. CIAA Commissioner Bob Moorman has established a Gold Bowl hot line at 804-643-6803 to keep you abreast of the happenings for the 1980 Gold Bowl Football Contest in Richmond, Va. next December 6. The game annually pits the MEAC champions against the CIAA title-holder. This could be the last time the game is held under the current format, and, more than likely, this will be the last time it is held in Richmond.

Charley Neal will handle the play-by-play for the Black Entertainment Television football games this fall. The selected cable system plans to televise nine black college games, opening with S.C. State and Delaware State on October 19. Anheuser-Busch is one of the first major advertisers to sign on for the series.

The popularity of the New York Yankees is evident by the fact they're attracting an average of 29,000 fans to each of their road games this season. No other major league club is close to that attendance figure.

Rumors have it that lack of publicity has hurt the Jackie Robinson Semi-pro Baseball League attendance this year. Look for a candy bar to be named after Magic Johnson, the gifted Los Angeles Lakers basketball star. The Pittsburgh Steelers, who are wearing super bowl championship rings on each of their four fingers, say they're playing for "One for the thumb in '81."

Black major league baseball players list Chicago's Wrigley Field as the worst place for verbal abuse.

Have you noticed that some sportswriters who were blistering major league baseball players for "not providing color and excitement" to the game are now blasting these same players for "not being good little ole boys?"

Looks like Kenny Evans, the smooth forward who starred for Norfolk State, has found a home in Boston. He survived the first cut in the Celtics camp last week. He was their sixth round draft choice. Incidentally, the Celtics have upped their figure to \$1.4 million to keep Cedric Maxwell in their uniform. However, reports are that the Indiana Pacers are offering the former UNCC ace \$2.2 million for five years. Maxwell hasn't decided which way he'll go.

Jim Rice has returned to the Boston Red Sox line-up. He missed 26 games after sustaining a broken wrist.

A long chat with William Gill revealed that Jimmy Westley won the Walter Williams Memorial Golf Traveling Memorial Plaque here recently. The Savannah native was playing in the Charlotte Braves Golf Tournament at Pawtucket where he shot a two-under-par 140, with rounds of 72 and 68.

Gill, who was the tourney chairman, also informs that Curtis Johnson of Benton Harbour, Mich. came in second, shooting 167 with a 79 and an 88. The Sportsmanship Award, donated by friends of the late Ernest Cherry, was won by Ed Iron of Atlanta, Ga. "He was the golfer who best personified the personality and character that the former West Charlotte Athletic Director exemplified," Gill continued.

Gill concluded that Bob Johnson, our columnist, John Love and Phil Neely, and John Granger, provided the assistance needed to make this one of the best tournaments the Braves have staged.

A long round of applause is due Phil Busher for the slick 1980 Johnson C. Smith University Football Media guide. Among the things one learns from browsing through Phil's excellent booklet is that eight local gridders are on the Golden Bulls squad.



Pictured are the BATCH winners of the Southeastern Racquet Association Tournament, recently held in Winston-Salem. Standing (L. to R.) are: Frento Burton, Ken Newkirk, Robert Hicks, Leon Forte. (Kneeling) Brenda Slade and Darlene McCullough. Approximately 20 BATCH members (a Charlotte-based tennis club) participated in the tournament.

Here This Weekend

150 Will Vie For NAGA

Golf Championship Titles

By Anthony Hayes
Post Staff Writer

It's time to tee up for the North American Golf Association, Inc.'s 5th Annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament. The tournament, won by Nate Stark last year in Eufala, Alabama, is expected to draw 150 players and will be played at the Crystal Springs Golf Course in Pineville, (one mile east of Carowinds), this weekend.

Entry fees have been set at \$66 for pros; \$44 for amateurs; and \$33 for ladies. (NAGA members receive 10 percent off.) Entry fees will be collected at the golf course on Friday evening until 8 p.m. Between 8-11 p.m. the entry fee will be collected at the Days Inn Motel at I-77 and Woodlawn intersection.

The tournament will feature 5 amateur flights, 2 ladies flights, and 2 senior flights, according to the number of players. Several prizes will be awarded to the winners in each flight, and a purse of \$4,465 will be at stake for the pros.

Among the pros battling for this year's top honors are: Chuck Thorpe, George Johnson, Bobby Stroble, Love singled out Donald

James Black, David Strawn, Alvin Grier, William Lewis, and Kevin King.

According to John Love Sr., tournament director, busloads of players and spectators will arrive from

Knoxville and Atlanta for this year's tournament. Players are expected to arrive from Charleston, Columbia, Asheville, Eufala, Alabama, Chester, Winston-Salem, Greensboro and Washington, D.C.

Love also predicts that Chuck Thorpe, George Johnson, Bobby Stroble, Nate Starks and Jim Black will be the top contenders for the title.

BATCH Finishes Fourth

The Batch Racquet Association of Charlotte finished fourth in the Southeastern Racquet Association's annual championships. The championships were recently held at the Hanes Tennis Center and Tanglewood Park, in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Robert Hicks won flight seven of the men's single while Alan Blackwell won the men's singles in flight five.

Littlejohn, Haywood Stevenson, James Boulter, John Shadd, Robert Brown, Ray Thomas and Joe Lewis as the top local amateur and senior championship players. The top-flight players from out of town were listed as Charles Kemp, Arthur Moore, David Taylor, Reggis Sellers, John Cornelius and Johnny Middleton. The top female contenders are said to be Kim Smith, Debbie Winfield, and Bertha Cauthen.

According to Love, the amateurs will tee off between 8-11:30 a.m. Saturday. The pros will follow immediately thereafter.

For additional information, contact John Love Sr. at 392-1036.

J. C. Smith Football

Players Will Report Sunday

Wylie Harris and football staff are following the example of Moses and Mohammed by taking to the mountains for final inspiration before the start of the 1980 football season.

Johnson C. Smith players will report to campus on Sunday, August 17 to start four weeks of preparation for the September 13th season opener against Lenior-Rhyne at Charlotte Memorial Stadium. In the meantime, Harris and assistant coaches Red Jackson, Moses Sharpe, Horace Small and Otis Stroud are holding work sessions at Pine Mountain this week.

"We take the wives and family along with plenty of good food and golf clubs," explained Harris. "It's a family get-together to kick off the start of the intense work ahead."

"Once the season begins, the wives hardly get to see their husbands," commented Ellamae Harris. "The mountain trip is a nice sendoff that we all share each year. Even at that, the men are in meetings all day."

Mother Nature will likely be contributing to coach Harris' "lean and mean" fitness program. Last spring the Golden Bull staff announced a running and weight program designed to eliminate excess body luggage. For those who

W. Charlotte Cheerleaders

Are Number 1!

The West Charlotte High cheerleading squad came home with top honors recently as they won a first-place trophy in regional competition at the Cheerleading Spirit Camp, held in Boone, N.C. In addition to the first-place trophy, the squad also took the

"Helping Hand" award (given to the team most instrumental in making the camp a success), and the "dynamite spirit stick" for demonstrating school spirit.

report "water-logged" to camp, either the three weeks of daily weight room sessions or the 95 degree heat will likely melt away the pounds.

"If an athlete doesn't report in top shape, he'll never make it through the first few days," noted Otis Stroud.

"We're looking for greater quickness on the field," emphasized Harris. That is why all linemen were required to wrestle last spring to develop quickness in using their strength."

Practice sessions will begin early in the day to compensate for the higher temperatures this summer. Water, salt and medical supplies will be in abundance at all times.

Asked about the effects of the heat, a defensive back commented that "It's a challenge to play well despite the heat. The team has been working on developing the mental toughness that overcomes such

conditions and develops the winning edge out on the field."

Preparations for the 1980 season began in December of last year. The final touches can be heard in the smack of shoulder pads and the clash of helmets for the next four weeks at the Beatties Ford Road campus. As with Moses and Mohammed before him, Wylie Harris will be coming off Pine Mountain with the intent of sending a thundering message throughout the CIAA that the Bulls are truly back in 1980.

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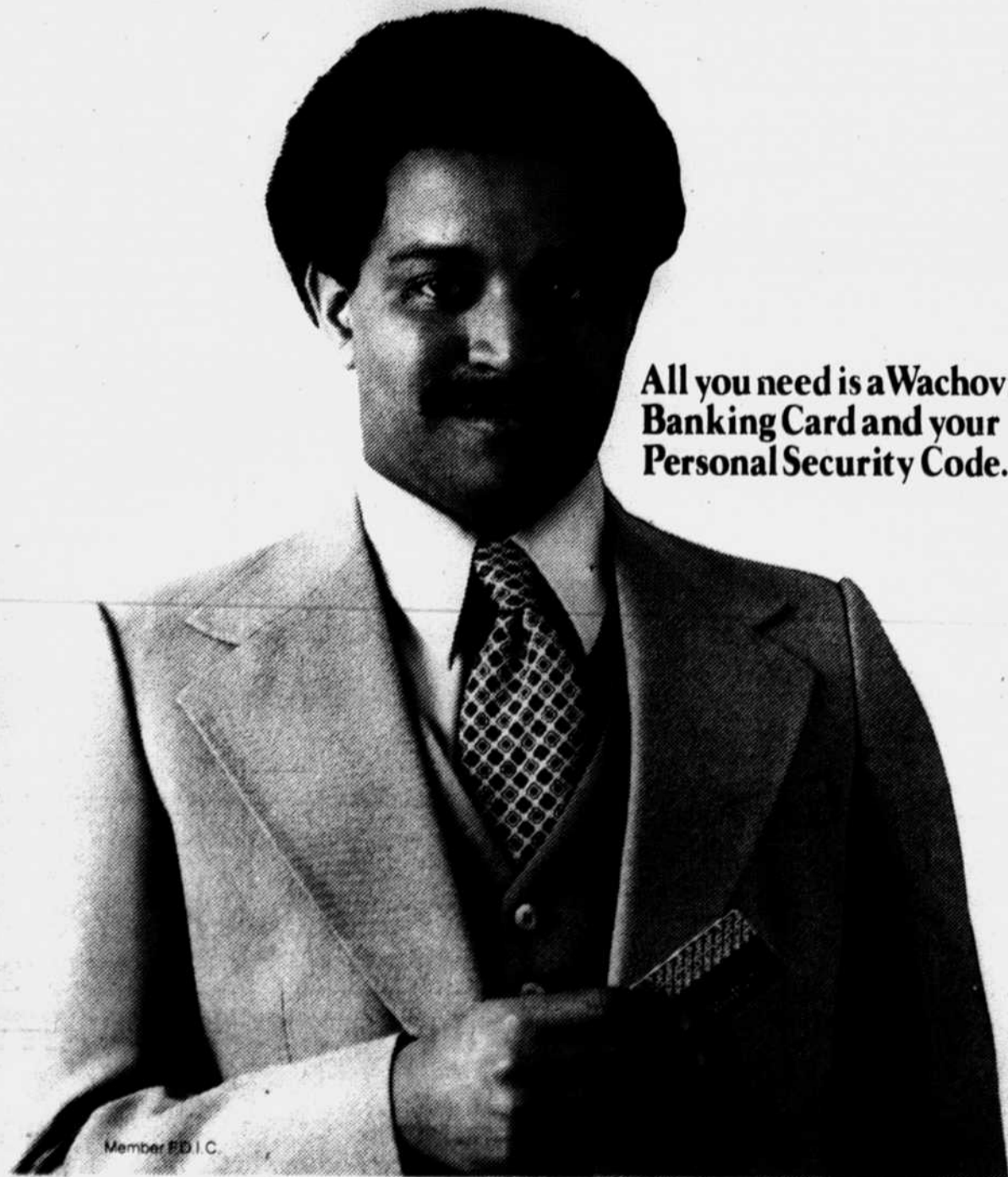
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