

Sports Deal



BY
BILL JOHNSON

TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS.....

Like the famed comedian Rodney Dangerfield - the Johnson C. Smith University athletic teams, get no respect. It's not that the Golden Bulls are not held in high esteem by their opponents who are intrusted with the chore of on-field combat rather than that the recognition due them as one of the CIAA's better-than-average teams has been extremely slow in coming.

The problem may erase itself quite a bit during the upcoming basketball season, especially if sports information director Phil Busher's predictions are anywhere near accurate. According to Phil, who incidentally is one of the best in the business the Golden Bull cagers will win the CIAA Southern Division, the CIAA Tournament and any and all post season tournaments offered.

Phil would have you believe that each of coach Robert Moore's starters will be "all something" or "all everything" in the future polls.

He may be right!

However, as honest as Phil is and notwithstanding the excellent job he's doing in selling the Bulls to anyone who'll listen, his analysis may be damaging to the Bulls' chances for experiencing a successful season.

First of all, time has proven that when a team is rated as the class of its league, that team very rarely comes through as predicted. They tend to lull themselves to sleep with their press clippings. Consequently, their record and their ratings slip to an unimpressive level. The Duke University basketball team of two seasons back and the Johnson C. Smith team of the 1959-60 are prime examples. Though they were rated to win everything in preseason polls, each could hardly break even in games played during the season.

An even greater distraction to be considered is the fact that the players will believe that they are indeed better than the other teams' athletes and they develop the opinion that all they have to do to win is just show up. Surveys also show that high ratings in preseason often-time lull players into a relaxation that will prevent them from performing up to the expected standards.

A word of caution, then, is that while the Golden Bulls do indeed (on paper) appear to be the class of small college basketball, it must be considered that preseason ratings are just that (preseason ratings) and basketball games must be won on the courts.

Simply put, the Bulls will have to perform like champions each time they take the floor if they are to - as Phil predicts - "win everything in sight!" Coach Moore has been placed in the unenviable position of having to set a torch to flame up a burning desire in each player to burn away the over-confidence and the apathy that sometimes makes a great team perform poorly.

ABOUT OTHER THINGS.....

Did you know that Moses Malone is leading the NBA in individual rebounding? Houston's center is picking off 17 loose balls a game...Here's bad news for the basketball coaches around the CIAA. Harvey Heartley returns four of last year's starters at St. Augustine's, and the Falcons expect to be better than ever this winter. All-CIAA Anthony Boggans, the sensational Brooklynite, has been looking better-than-ever in preseason drills.

Clarence "Big House" Gaines, who will bring his colorful Winston-Salem Rams to town for the Charlotte Post Charities Doubleheader at the Coliseum Friday night, December 5, is staging his own tournament in Winston-Salem this weekend. The participants are, in addition to Winston-Salem State, St. Augustine's, Morehouse and Bowie State.

Big House has a couple of newcomers who are tickets for stardom. They are Therman Greene and 6-5 James Mitchell. The Thanksgiving Classic will be held at the Gaines Center on the Winston-Salem State campus Friday and Saturday nights.

WISH I'D THOUGHT OF IT FIRST ETC. - Robert Fuller, the bright young sports editor of the Winston-Salem Chronicle, calls the Gold Bowl, the "Leftover Bowl!" The statement may not be accurate this year since Bob Moorman and his committee expect to match North Carolina Central against S. C. State in Richmond, Va., December 6.

Eber also points out in his weekly column that "it's going to be hard to please Virginia State athletic director Claude Flythe now that he has a win under his belt." The reference is made to the fact that Flythe fired his head coach Al Tabor last week, took over the coaching reigns himself and upset Morgan State. Tabor had compiled a 1-8 record before his exit.

Education should include training in the art of living with one's fellow man.

In Australian Basketball

Charlotte Youth Named "Most Valuable Player"

By Susan Ellsworth
Post Staff Writer
When Willie (Scoopie) Joplin signed with an Australian basketball league, he became the first black American to integrate the sport.

Joplin is a guard on the Valern Perkunus League, which is a division of the Southern Tasmanian Basketball League. As an all-star he also plays on the state team called the Tasmania Devils.

Willie's roots are in Charlotte. After graduating from West Charlotte High School he attended Johnson C. Smith University from 1970-74 on a basketball scholarship. This early childhood development education major served as team captain and was a candidate for all-American.

Joplin, 29, signed a two-year contract last November with an Australian League and in his first season won national recognition.

He was voted top scorer in the Tasmanian League, the Most Valuable Player for both the state team and Valern Perkunus as well as Player of the Year for 1980.

The 6'1", 170-pound Joplin set a record in Australia by averaging 30 points a game. Joplin scored a maximum of 52 points in one game and collected 125 points in one week (three games).

Between college basketball and playing for an Australian league, Joplin briefly starred with the Hazelton Bullets in Pennsylvania. He later directed the Huntersville branch of the Mecklenburg County Recreation Department. A continued interest in young people then led him to coaching junior varsity basketball for North Mecklenburg High School.

How do the Australian leagues compare with those here in the National Basketball Association?

"In three years," Joplin said, "Australian teams will be as good as any on the NBA." American coaches are teaching players and top American college teams visiting that continent have an influence, according to Joplin.

Before his contract ex-



Willie "Scoopie" Joplin
...Ends great season

pires, Joplin will have played basketball in countries around the world. Yet, this top Tasmanian player has not achieved his ambition.

"Until I play in the NBA, I won't have fulfilled my goal," he emphasized.

During the off-season Joplin conducts basketball clinics and teaches the sport at colleges and high schools in Hobart, his home base.

Although all teams have two or three Americans on them, Joplin pointed out he is the first black.

"Australians have never seen a black American," he said, adding that they have treated him well.

In Australian the basket-

ball season begins in February with training. Exhibition games start in April. And the regular season runs from April till September 19, Joplin said.

Seasons on the Australian continent run opposite to those in North America. When it's winter in the U.S. there is summer weather in Australia.

Joplin also spends much of the off season visiting his family in Charlotte.

The youngest of four children, Joplin is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Joplin, and was raised from age 16 by his aunt and uncle, Marilyn and Charles Ferguson.

Joplin is engaged to Vicki Armstrong of Charlotte.

Bulls Face Barber-Scotia; Host Post Doubleheader

Charlotte Post Charities Friday, December 5, at the Basketball Doubleheader, Charlotte Coliseum.

Fasten your seat belts and grab your hats as the Johnson C. Smith basketball program is set to explode on the scene next week.

The Golden Bulls open the season by hosting Barber-Scotia for a doubleheader on Monday, December 1, at the campus Brayboy gym. The ladies will tip off at 5:30 p.m. with the men to follow at 7:30 p.m. A good entertainment tip would be to check out the new look with the girls' team. Coach Steve Joyner has installed an exciting hustle in the girls' program. The ladies came from 10 down in their opener to narrowly miss defeating A&T State in the final seconds of a 71-69 opener last week.

Monday night's men's game will provide Bob Moore's answer as to who will be starting for the Golden Bulls.

"We'll be using our bench quite a lot this year," commented Moore. "Our starting line-up will vary during the season depending on what we are trying to accomplish on the court and depending on who is playing good basketball going into any game." No starting position appears to be sacred as Johnson C. Smith has the talent and experience backing up every position.

The Sabres are under first year coach Fred Thomas, who filled in last season throwing a scare into the Bulls with a near upset last January.

The ladies will travel for a two-day tournament in Greensboro with A&T State, Winston-Salem State and Fayetteville State, Dec. 5th and 6th. The Bulls, meanwhile, play in the 9 p.m. feature game of the

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7:00 P.M. - Winthrop Vs. Winston-Salem State

Two-time NAIA-6 coach of the year Neild Gordon challenges "The House", Clarence Gaines, most winning active coach in the NCAA!

9:00 P.M. - Benedict Vs. Johnson C. Smith

Michael Holmes, Tigers were ranked 7th in the Sheridan Black College Poll. Bob Moore's Golden Bulls plan to reach higher goals in 1980-81.

— ADMISSION —

Tickets Available From:
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Adults \$5⁵⁰
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