

# Sports Beat



BY BILL JOHNSON

**IF YOU ASK ME!**  
Religion would probably have more converts if it didn't interfere with the way some people live.

Almost everyone knew it was bound to happen. I'm speaking, of course, of the success (or failure as some would have you to believe) of Robert Moore, the young fellow who has done such a great job as head basketball coach at Johnson C. Smith University.

Success generally begets criticism. Just as he has done on the basketball courts, Moore has been getting far more criticism than he deserves. His efforts have been praiseworthy. His personality is more than pleasing and he has gone out of his way to work with those who appear interested in helping his program. In short, Moore has been God-sent.

He has brought the Johnson C. Smith basketball program out of the doldrum of despair to a level of respectability that has the excitement in this town at one of its highest peaks since Morgana, the gal with the over-endowed upper torso who left town some years back.

Yet he's not without criticism. His critics would have you to believe that Bob is an immature man who does not have the capabilities to win the so-called "big games." They seem to have forgotten the position of the program before Moore took over. They also overlook the fact that Bob is a winner, and winners seldom take a setback lightly.

We tend to sympathize with Moore because, in our opinion, he has been tossed into a no-win situation, one in which he's going to be "damed if he does and dammed if he doesn't."

Some critics have placed Moore in the same bed of unproductivity with Lefty Driesell, the highly volatile coach at the University of Maryland. If you check the records, both have done quite well in their chosen fields and it's a great honor to be considered in the company of a man who has won better than 70 percent of his games. Bob is not doing bad himself.

Moore's critics disregard the fact that it takes money to run a first class athletic program. Consequently, if they really wanted him to win the so-called "big games," they'd dig deep down in their pockets and come up with enough cash to employ two top assistants. Bob is one of the few coaches in the game who still single-handedly carries the responsibilities of coaching, recruiting and classroom teaching. He needs professional help!

If we are going to rate him in a class with Lefty let's provide for him the same budget that Lefty uses to operate his program. And let's do him an even bigger favor by paying him the same salary Lefty earns.

The other side of the ledger. Let's check the records and determine how many teams in college basketball won 18 of 26 games this past season. I think you'd find Moore and his Bulls in the top 25 percent bracket.

Let's check to see how many teams had two all-conference players on their squads. Johnson C. Smith did. It should have had three, but as fate would have it, Bill Tibbs was a late bloomer after a painful injury that sidelined him for the year before.

Let's check to see how many teams won conference championships. The Golden Bulls should be proud to wear the banner as the Southern Division champions of the CIAA. Few teams were so privileged.

Let's check to see which college team has the second best attendance record for games played at the Charlotte Coliseum this season. You'll find J. C. Smith holding that honor.

In short, there's lots we can brag about. Moore's team's accomplishments were numerous. Rather than spend the spring and summer months talking about a missed call or a coach's decision we disagreed with, let's be proud of what Moore has accomplished.

The Post again urged the booster club concept. Moore needs someone to turn to when he's in need. As of this moment, he has no such luxury.

It's rather strange to me to hear of a man being criticized who has to endure all of the problems that Moore encountered during the current basketball season. How many coaches have to ride buses that break down on trips? How many coaches have to stay in second class hotels and motels when their assignments take them away from their home and family?

Bob Moore, I would imagine, is the type of man who knows that he's going to be criticized as he climbs the ladder to success. He's well aware that the higher he climbs the more severely he's going to be criticized. That's part of life. Just as the critics would like for their heroes to be supermen, they should themselves use special care in making certain that they are being fair in their criticizing.



It was sunny with cool breezes lingering - the perfect day to take advantage of sinking that ball. From left to right are Gary Pitchford, Curtis Wilson, Jim Henshaw, Walter Colson and Robert "Physical Man" Martin.

## Odell Walker Receives "Player Of Week" Honors

By Chase Vance  
Post Sports Writer

Garinger's march to the Southwestern 4A conference championship reads like fiction. The Wildcats began the year with only two experienced players, Derrick Knox and this week's Player of the Week Odell Walker.

But under new coach Bruce Kreutzer, they rebounded and won 16 games and lost 9, winning 11 of their last 13 games.

Entering the tournament as the fourth seeded, they beat North Mecklenburg, West Charlotte and Independence. In the last two games, they had to come from behind to do it.

As Independence built up a 22-4 lead in the first

quarter, Odell Walker watched from the bench. "We've come too far to lose this way," he thought. "They are not that much better than us."

"We were comfortable on the bench, at the end of the quarter," said Walker, "as we watched them and plotted how we would get back into the game patiently."

Walker contributed 11 points in the second quarter to the come-back effort as Garinger pulled to within six at the half.

He finished with a game high 29 and was named as the Southwestern 4A Conference's tournament most valuable player.

Walker is one of two Charlotte area players that

are being recruited by UNCC.

"Odell Walker and Eric Boyd are both top notch division one prospects," said UNCC coach Mike

Pratt. "We are recruiting them both. They would be guards in college and both have the abilities."

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# Charles McCullough Named

## Prep "Coach Of The Year"

Head coach Charles McCullough, who led the West Charlotte Lions to a 20-5 record and a regular season title in the conference is the 1981 Charlotte Post "Coach of the Year."



Charles McCullough  
...Outstanding coach

His understudy - dynamic, sizzling Frank Henderson, is the 1981 Charlotte Post Basketball "Player of the Year."

Frank with a 26 points per game average and a 7 rebounds per game average is a player who can do it all. Seen frequently following his shots to the basket, he dominated play when he was in the game this season. The 6-2 forward leads the first team All-County Team.

### Class Planned For Non-Swimmers

A swimming class for adult non-swimmers is being offered at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Wednesdays and Fridays, March 25 through April 25.

Designed for post-high school adults who have never learned to swim, the class will meet from 4-5 p.m. in UNCC's swimming pool. The instructor is Chuck Humble, a member of UNCC's Department of Health and Physical Education faculty and a qualified water safety instructor. The cost is \$35.

Participants will learn how to relax, float and

Garinger's Derrick Knox, who averaged 21 points and 8 rebounds per game, and Eric Boyd of Independence, who averaged 19.9 points and 7 assists per game.

Heading the second team are West Charlotte's Mike Medley, Chris Brown of Olympic, Derrick Floyd of Olympic, Baron Odom of Independence, and Andrew Gillespie of Myers Park.

Honorable mention goes to Sanford Tillman of Myers Park, Bradley Leak of North Mecklenburg, Mel Wallace of Olympic, Dennis McClain of West Charlotte, Keith Bowers of Charlotte Catholic, Virgil Hoover of Charlotte Catholic, Aaron Plummer of West Charlotte, Wayne Lattimore of West Mecklenburg, Robert Abbot of West Mecklenburg, John Carmichael of West Charlotte, Tony Helton of Independence, Raymond Phillips of North, Terrence Miller of North, Wendell Similton of South, Geoffrey Crosby of South, Kenny Davis of South, Reggie Moses of West Charlotte and Henri Smith of West Charlotte.

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