



By Bill Johnson

SPORTS BEAT

TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS!
Balanced judgement is the difference between wisdom and foolishness.

Super Bowl Sunday looms larger than ever with two of professional football's greatest teams meeting head-on Sunday afternoon in Tampa Bay, Fla. The knowledgeable people are laying their hard-earned bucks on the Los Angeles Raiders while giving Washington from two to four points.

After dusting off the Ole Crystal Ball for one last look at football for the current season, I've come up with the prediction that the Redskins will polish off the Raiders by 10. Admittedly, OCB didn't fare very well during the MEAC-CIAA football campaign, but, remember, this is ... as some would say ... "another day!" Perhaps, "another league" is better stated.

There is very little to choose between these two gladiators, who survived 16 weeks of head-knocking and butt-busting in the undeclared wars more popularly known as professional football. However, OCB warns that the Redskins have been "up" since the second week in the season and that Washington has defied the law of average all season long. One more appearance is not asking very much of them.

If they have their way, the New York Giants will make black quarterback Warren Moon football's newest millionaire. That's because the Giants are competing with the Houston Oilers, who reports say are ready to hand the former Canadian Football League great a blank check for his signature.

Early reports are that the proposed fight between Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvelous Marvin Hagler is expected to gross over \$65,000 million and that the fighters will divide \$35 million between them. Now you know why the "Sugarman" was itching to climb back into the boxing rings.

I'm happy to note that local television viewers who subscribe to cablevision have turned their thumbs down on "Season Ticket," the gimmick to milk extra money from each viewer for a few extra ACC basketball contests. It's about time viewers teach the TV big-wigs that they're not going to buy biology, no matter which way it's sliced.

More than the Super Bowl promoters will strike it rich Sunday. ABC will get \$525,000 for each of its 30-second commercials during the game. One minute spots will cost \$1 million each.

Incidentally, conservative estimates are that Super Bowl fans will spend \$70 million in the Tampa Bay area this week.

Did you know that Jim McKinley has resigned as head football coach at Prairie View A&M to accept an assistant coach position with the New Oklahoma team in the USFL?

Or that CBS, which removed announcer Tom Brookshire from its regular broadcasting team following a negative remark he made about the Louisville basketball team, has assigned Brookshire to do the Super Bowl pre-game show Sunday.

Financial problems have caused the demise of the Willie Stargell Foundation, an organization to aid in research for sickle cell anemia. The former Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder says, however, that he will continue to fill speaking engagements "to raise funds for fighting the disease."

Jack Benson, who is more widely known for his grandiloquence than for his athletic skills, believes West Charlotte's young sophomore Lance Jones is going to become a superstar. Prep coaches in the area generally are in agreement.

The very informative "Fact Sheet" which Norfolk State's publicity people send down each week, reports that Charles Christian owns an enviable 146-60 record, with a lofty .709 winning percentage that's eighth best in NCAA II and 35th tops in all divisions. Charles, the reports says, was even better in high school where he was 341-58 in 18 seasons for an .852 clip.

Johnson C. Smith's young Robert Moore has a .630 winning percentage mark for 12 years of coaching at Virginia Union and Smith. Moore was 84-57 at JCSU prior to this season and 172-101 overall.

Charley Cox, who is building a creditable sports program at McCrory YMCA, will be inducted into Swimming Hall of Fame Friday at Washington, D.C. Cardozo High School. Forrest Willis, formerly of Charlotte, is also being honored.

Michael Jackson, who won everything on Monday night's "American Music Awards" offered, except the hall in which the event was held, has chalked up still another honor. He's starring in the new Pepsi-Cola commercials, which feature Michael, along with his brothers, Jackie, Tito, Germaine, Marlon and Randy, in specially tailored scenes.



Members of West Charlotte Community Center Number Two Basketball team pose happily with their successful coach Don Cureton.

West Charlotte Community Center Wins Cage Tournament

By James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

The West Charlotte Community Center Number Two team recently won the Earle Village Center Christmas Tournament.

The starters on the team are Anthony White at center, Sherman Crowder at point guard, Daniel Freeman at wing, and Andre Douglas and Jeff Curry at forwards.

Other members are Donnie McInnis, Al Grier, Ballius McLean, Ricky

Jackson and William Howard.

Coached by Don Cureton and Winford Phillips, the team from the West Charlotte Intermediate League beat Greenville, 60-55, the first day, with White scoring 15, Curry 13 and Crowder 12 points.

In the championship game the team beat Boulevard Homes, 74-34, with White scoring 20, Crowder 17 and Curry 13 points.

Anthony White of West Charlotte was the most

valuable player of the tournament.

He was joined on the All-Tournament team by Sherman Crowder of West Charlotte, Wayne McLaughlin of Greenville, Charles Pegues of Earle Village and Clem Clending of Boulevard Homes.

"We put a tough press and zone trap on them," said Cureton of his team's effort.

"Last year, they beat us by one point," he said. "This year the fellows said things would be different."

Special Olympic Cagers Enjoy Successful Season

By Lori Grier
Post Staff Writer

"It's not so much winning, it's how you play. It's just an experience that can't be explained unless you're there," said Ms. Pat McDonald, who helped organize the Special Olympics Basketball Team at Statesville Road Elementary School.

Ms. McDonald started the team at University Park Elementary School in 1981, but it was later moved to Statesville. The coach for her team is Harry Deaver.

The team is composed of students, ages 11 and 12, in a self-contained class at Statesville.

"In Special Olympics students can only participate in one event. Some choose the run, dribble-shoot event, while others choose the basketball event," McDonald added.

Statesville Elementary School played Plaza Road Elementary School in November, 1983, and went into overtime. At the end of overtime, the score was still tied. Since neither team won the game, five members from each team were selected to represent Charlotte in the State

Olympics Competition in November, 1983, at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C. They came away the victors and received championship ribbons. Mrs. Rhoda Anderson is in charge of the Plaza Road team along with coach Kelvin Rhumph.

Of the three games played they lost only once to a Gastonia team during the Christmas Classic. The areas they play in depend upon where the State Olympics will be held, but local games are usually played at the Metro Center.

According to McDonald, the purpose of the team, which is a Branch of the National Olympics funded by the Kennedy Foundation, is to help with self-esteem, morale and competition. The goals are that they do the best they can, learn sportsmanship behavior, have a good time and make friends.

She describes the team, which practices three hours weekly during school operation from 7:40 a.m. until 2 p.m., as "active, pretty skilled in sports and a good bunch of boys." Last year the team was co-ed with the addition of one girl.

"The skill isn't there like it is for the normal child, but our kids appreciate it (sports) more and give it their all," McDonald continued.

Her major disappointment occurred when they lost a game, and she saw them hurt. McDonald always tries to relieve their hurt with the motto "Do Your Best." The rewards she receives from working with them are numerous. "You get to see the children succeed at something, accomplish on their own and feel good about themselves. Seeing them unable to dribble to able to make a basket is a wonderful feeling. I've seen their skills improve from the very beginning to the actual game," she confessed.

Keep your out-of-town friends informed of what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of The Charlotte Post each week.
376-0496

News Conference Ruling Confuses CIAA Followers?

By Phil Busher
Special To The Post

A change in how the CIAA standings are determined is causing some confusion among conference followers. The formula, voted in by league coaches last year, will include only games that Johnson C. Smith plays against fellow members of the CIAA Southern Division (JCSU, Winston-Salem State, Livingstone, Shaw, Fayetteville State, N.C. Central and St. Augustine's). All games played against Northern Division teams (Virginia Union, St. Paul's and Virginia State), will not count in the standings except to be used as a tie-breaker to determine seeding for the CIAA Tournament.



Mike Singleton

The Golden Bulls have split contests with the North, beating Elizabeth City State and Bowie State, while dropping games to St. Paul's and Norfolk State. Six of the Bulls' next seven games will be against Southern Division teams, starting with N.C. Central Thursday and a visit to Livingstone Saturday.

Smith's success in that six-game stretch will be squarely on the shoulders of the guards' play. Center Phil Smith and forward Roosevelt McGruder, along with reserve Mike Singleton, have demonstrated that the big men can definitely score if they get the ball. Although Singleton measures at only 6'5", he has been a thorn in opponent defenses with an 11 of 15 shooting performance his last two games.

No clear, dominant force has emerged in the Southern Division. Central, WSSU and St. Augustine's have all sustained losses. The early surprise has been Shaw, who has defeated WSSU, Virginia Union and Central in three straight wins in Raleigh.

stitute has proved a steady force while Norfolk State has been convincing in rolling up 13 straight wins to be ranked number two in the NCAA II polls.

"We haven't hurt ourselves yet," remarked JCSU coach Bob Moore. "St. Paul's taught us that if we aren't mentally prepared against every single CIAA opponent, no matter where the game is played, then we'd better be prepared to have our heads handed to us."

The JCSU women are on a roll, having won five of their last six contests.

After Thursday's game with Central, the Smith teams will take to the road with visits to Livingstone (January 19), Barber-Scotia (January 23), St. Augustine's (January 26) and WSSU (January 28).

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