

# Legendary editor helped integrate major leagues

Charlotte's high-scoring machine looks to improve on career-best campaign

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York World Telegram, argued that number should be enough to have him accepted although he did not write for a daily publication.

He remained a member until 1960 when his membership was transferred to the association's Baltimore chapter. The chapter dropped him because the Afro-American was not a daily.

His primary sponsors were Larry Whiteside of the Boston Globe and Dave Anderson of the New York Times.

As a young man, Lacy's dreams were of making his mark as a baseball player. He pitched and played other positions, starting in

his Washington, D.C., high schools. Later he got to play against some of the Negro Leaguers as a semi-pro with the Washington Hilldales and Washington Black Sox.

Despite his important role in the integration of Major League Baseball, Lacy never was convinced he'd make the Hall because his writing career was so diverse in the sports areas he covered, but in his modest manner, after learning of his selection, an obviously elated Lacy allowed, "I'll take it."

In addition to his reporting, Lacy was widely known and respected for his column, which evolved from "Looking Them

Over," to "A to Z" and more recently to "Sam Lacy." His career has included sports broadcasting, radio stunts and several years with WBAL-TV.

Lacy initially interviewed a baseball team owner, Clark Griffith of the Washington franchise, about integrating in 1937. He was then with his first paper, the Washington Tribune.

By 1943, while with the Chicago Defender but not writing sports, his persistence won an invitation to speak to the team owners meeting in Cleveland. He didn't get to speak because others, including Paul Robeson, thought to have more influence, were chosen to attend the meeting.

Lacy returned to the Afro in January 1944. In April 1945, Lacy took his case to the owners in their meeting in Detroit. They agreed to appoint a committee on

baseball integration. Members included Lacy, Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers and Larry MacPhail of the New York Yankees.

Lacy and Rickey met twice in the Dodgers' New York offices. MacPhail never showed. One of the players Lacy and Rickey talked about was Jackie Robinson who had been brought to Rickey's attention by Wendell Smith and others.

After Rickey stunned the nation by signing Robinson to the Montreal Royals in 1945, Lacy spent several years covering Robinson and the other early black baseball players. He helped paved the way, egging teams to hire black players, fighting for equal treatment on the field, in salaries and in areas such as pushing the teams to stop separating their players when they housed them.

One of the most repeated stories about Lacy's determination dealt with his taking a chair and going up to the roof of a press box in New Orleans when he was denied access inside. Several white reporters joined him on the roof.

Although best known for his work in baseball, Lacy's work throughout his career has been exemplified by his crusades against racial discrimination in all sports.

## Queens men, women look solid

By Karl Petraraja FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Although just 10 years old, Queens College basketball is all grown up.

The men's team coached by Dale Layer was picked to finish first in the CVAC by the league's coaches. It's the first time the Royals have been picked a preseason favorite in the three-year history of the CVAC. The Royals also saw 6-7 junior forward Adrien Pritchard named to the all-conference team.

The women's team led by Jeannie King was picked fourth, while placing 6-1 senior center Stacy Buchannon to the all-conference team.

The men are coming off back-to-back outstanding seasons. Two years ago they won the conference championship, finished 25-6 and advanced to the NCAA Division II Sweet 16. Last year, the Royals were conference runners-up and posted a 22-7 mark. The combined record the last two years of 47-13, gives the Royals a .783 winning percentage, making them the second most successful basketball team in the state. Only Wake Forest, at .794 ranks higher.

"We'll find out I guess, if bigger is better," Layer said.

"We're the biggest we've ever been."

"I think we're deeper and as talented as we've ever been, I just hope they'll fit together, play hard and listen to me occasionally."

The talent is most pronounced on the front line, with 6-10 senior center, Soce Faye from Dakar, Senegal. He was the Royals third leading scorer and second-best rebounder last year.

The talent continues with the all-conference forward Pritchard, whose transfer at mid-season made Queens better. Layer calls him an explosive scorer who works very hard.

"I've taught him to jump in the past year so you'll see the difference immediately," Layer laughed.

The Royals complete the towering front-line, with 6-6 sophomore forward Tavaron Raymon.

The Royals backcourt will take on a new look. Two candidates, transfer Glen Harris and freshman Michael Lush are vying at two-guard.

At the point, Mike King and Mark Sutton are fighting it out. Layer feels good entering the season with either.

"Our depth is better than it's

ever been," he said. "I think we're going to be pretty decent but at our level anything can happen, one injury is enough to knock a whole team off kilter."

The Royals open Saturday at USC Aiken before battling Johnson C. Smith on Tuesday at Brayboy Gym, a place the Royals have never won. The first home game is not until Dec. 2 against Belmont Abbey. The Royals host their own tournament, the Marriott Classic, Jan. 2-4 at Ovens.

The Lady Royals jump into the fire this weekend, hosting the Queens Tip-Off Tournament.

Only Belmont Abbey and Longwood, who tied for first, and Barton College at number three, rank ahead of the Royals. That's just fine with King.

"That will put pressure on the people in front of me and off us," she said.

"We're very excited where the CVAC could be going, it's a very competitive league."

King admits she'll need somebody to step up and replace starting point guard Nikki Turner, the school's all-time assist and steals leader but she's happy with the talent and experience coming back from last year's club.

## Holyfield takes care of business, wins

By Jim Litke THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — A grudge can get heavy when even strong men have to carry them three long years.

That was the vexing thing about the angry glares Evander Holyfield and Michael Moorer exchanged when they met in the center of the ring for the second time Saturday night.

At that moment, there was no way to tell which found the burden more wearisome. But by the end, there were no longer any doubts. Holyfield took care of the only unavenged defeat on his record by knocking Moorer down every time he got up — five times in all — convincing referee Mitch Halpern to waive an end to the fight.

"He was able to get up each and every time," Holyfield said. "That shows he came to win."

Moorer had plenty of doubters on this night, just as he had the first time the two fought, in April, 1994. But even though this one ended with Moorer on his stool after the eighth round, he may have showed more courage than in the fight that he won.

"I beat him the first time, he beat me the second time," Moorer said. "So let's do it a third time."

Holyfield was not so sure. When the question of a next opponent came up, the first name off his lips was not Moorer, but Lennox Lewis. That's because Lewis holds the WBC championship, the only one of the three heavyweight titles Holyfield does not now own.

Moorer may not like it, but just as he did the first time they fought, Holyfield calls the shots. And that is because he is the one with more to lose.

Where Moorer goes from here might be the more difficult question to answer. Afterward, two

large, purple welts had been raised on the right side of his head.

"When you're in a battle you don't feel anything," he said. "But I feel it now. My head is pounding."

In truth, the rest of him can't feel much

better. For all the places the intervening three years have taken Moorer, he won't command more money or respect now. Because while his courage isn't in doubt, his skills are.

In the first fight, Moorer came in a 2 1/2-1 underdog. Some of that owed to his relative inexperience at the time; Moorer was making only his 13th appearance as a heavyweight. More of it, no doubt, had to do with the uninspired performances that had preceded him; all five of Moorer's decision wins had come since the southpaw moved up in class. His record as a heavyweight since hasn't been much more impressive.

Holyfield, on the other hand, seems stronger the further out he extends his reach. He not only won, he made good on a promise to make Moorer regret breaking into a premature celebration the first time they fought.

In the days leading up to the rematch, he talked about that and about how low he sank soon after that defeat.

"I did get angry in the last 10 seconds when he raised his hands," Holyfield recalled on the eve of the rematch. "I looked at my faults and the reasons I didn't give my all and I left sorry for myself."

Hours later, he felt even worse. Holyfield went to the hospital

after the 1994 fight, believing a rotator cuff injury was the reason for his listless performance. His personal physician believed it was something much more troubling — a malfunctioning heart.

The news sent Holyfield into a tailspin. The man who had once no doubts suddenly found them everywhere he turned. Holyfield thought seriously about retiring, then thought better of it after claiming he had been cured by a faith healer. His boxing skills, however, remained so uneven that almost everyone around him remained skeptical. When promoter Don King lined him up for Tyson to knock down along the comeback trail, the Nevada state boxing regulators made Holyfield submit to a battery of medical tests.

The story of how Moorer got from that fight to this one was gloomier still, because it lacked the redeeming chapter that Holyfield's back-to-back wins over Tyson provided. Days after beating Holyfield, he talked about retiring within a year and just seven months later, George Foreman made it seem like more than idle speculation by knocking Moorer out.

He won back a piece of the title by defeating Axel Schulz and successfully defended it against little-known Vaughn Bean. But he appeared so disinterested in both fights, and Holyfield's so rejuvenated, the notion that his win over Holyfield was a fluke became accepted fact the moment the rematch was made. The more it was thrown up to him, the more Moorer used it to motivate him in the gym.

But it only got him so far. Holyfield had plenty to prove and more determination.

"I'm a better man than I was the last time," he said earlier. Then he went out and proved it.



Holyfield

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