



SPORTS BRIEFS

**Cleveland's Mesa pleads innocent to sex charges**

LAKEWOOD, Ohio — Cleveland Indians pitcher Jose Mesa and a friend pleaded innocent Wednesday to charges of gross sexual imposition. Mesa was arraigned before Lakewood Municipal Court Judge Patrick Carroll.

Mesa, 30, and David F. Blanco, 34, entered the pleas and requested a preliminary hearing, which was set for Jan. 17. Both men remained free on \$5,000 bonds.

**Chargers show interest in former Saints coach**

SAN DIEGO — Chargers general manager Bobby Beathard said he plans to interview former New Orleans Saints coach Jim Mora next week for the vacancy created when Bobby Ross resigned from the post last week.

Although a date hasn't been set, Beathard said he'd interview Mora at Mobile, Ala., site of the Senior Bowl on Jan. 18.

Beathard had hoped to hire a replacement for Ross by this week, but it's not likely going to happen.

Even if Mora doesn't get the top job, he might be in line to become defensive coordinator.

Mora resigned from the Saints at midseason.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tar Heel women hammer FSU as Jones, Reid tally 24 apiece**

STAFF REPORT  
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Junior forward Tracy Reid teamed up with junior guard Marion Jones to lead the 16th-ranked North Carolina women's basketball team to an 88-63 romp over Florida State on Wednesday night.

The Tar Heels (11-1, 2-0 in the ACC), who never trailed in the contest, shot 52 percent from the floor en route to a 47-28 halftime advantage.

Florida State (5-8, 0-4), meanwhile, hit only 37.5 percent of its first-half field goal attempts.

Forward Chanel Wright tossed eight assists to go along with 13 points as the Tar Heels won their fourth straight contest.

Wendy Hampton led the Lady Seminoles with 19 points and four assists.

Reid ran off eight points in the first six minutes as North Carolina jumped out to a 10-2 lead early in the game.

Florida State didn't hit a field goal until Hampton scored at the 11:40 mark of the first half to slice UNC's lead to 14-7.

The Tar Heels then went on a 9-0 spurt to go up 23-7.

Florida State managed to cut the lead to 10, but an 8-0 run helped North Carolina take command of the game.



UNC forward CHANEL WRIGHT dished out eight assists Wednesday.

That run proved decisive, as the Lady Seminoles got no closer than 19 points in the second stanza.

Jones and Nicole Walker grabbed seven rebounds each to lead the Tar Heels, who outrebounded Florida State 44-36.

Jones also snatched four steals from the Lady Seminoles to go with her five assists.

Latavia Coleman chipped in 13 points for the Lady Seminoles, and FSU's Lysa Moorefield and Jen Robinson added 12 and 11, respectively.

Coleman and Moorefield led the Lady Seminoles with six rebounds apiece.

While the Tar Heels committed 15 turnovers, Florida State gave the ball away 22 times. Robinson accounted for

seven of FSU's turnovers.

All of the Tar Heels' field goals came from inside the arc, as North Carolina missed all five of its 3-point attempts.

**UNC 88, Florida State 63**

	UNC	FSU
Points	47	41
Rebounds	28	36
Assists	88	63

UNC: Reid 10-12 4-5 24, Jones 9-13 8-11 24, Wright 6-12 1-2, N. Walker 5-8 0-0 8, S. Walker 2-5 0-0 4, Davis 1-3 2-4, Gear 2-6 0-0 4, Clay 1-4 2-2 4, Gesser 0-1 3-3 1, Johnson 1-0 0-0 2, Totals: 34-69 20-37 88.

FSU: Hampton 6-11 4-6 18, Coleman 3-12 8-6 13, Moorefield 6-10 2-3 12, Robinson 5-10 0-0 11, Penn 1-3 0-0 2, Davidson 1-1 0-2 2, McLin 0-2 2-2 2, Foster 0-3 1-3 1, Totals: 27-57 8-26 63.

3-point goals — UNC: G-5 Jones 0-1, Gesser 0-1, Gear 0-3; FSU: Hampton 3-7, Penn 1-2, Coleman 1-2, Robinson 1-4, Foster 0-1, Robinson 0-1, Davidson 0-1, McLin 0-1, Johnson 0-1; UNC: Reid 0-0, Jones 0-0, Wright 0-0, N. Walker 0-0, S. Walker 0-0, Davis 0-0, Clay 0-0, Gear 0-0, Johnson 0-0.

Attendance — 2,743.

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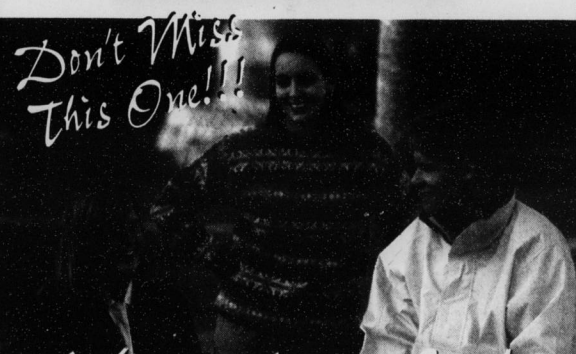
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**Grad rates of black athletes on rise**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — The number of black athletes enrolling in Division I schools that grant scholarships is on the rebound after falling off when Proposition 48 was adopted 10 years ago, the NCAA said Wednesday.

In its first long-term study of the rule's impact, the NCAA also said graduation rates for all student-athletes at such Division I schools continue to exceed those of the general student populations.

The NCAA said blacks made up 27.3 percent of all student-athletes entering the schools in 1985, falling to 23.6 percent in 1986.

By 1989, it had recovered somewhat, to 25 percent.

The study also showed a rise in graduation rates among black male student-athletes — from 34 percent of the freshman class of 1985, the last year before Proposition 48, to 41 percent of 1986 freshmen, and 43 percent of 1989 freshmen.

"We had a diminution of numbers of African-American student athletes when we went from pre-Proposition 48 to Prop 48," said Ursula Walsh, NCAA director of research.

Under Prop 48, which went into effect in 1986, freshman athletes had to meet minimum academic standards to play, practice or even accept financial aid in their first year.

The standardized ACT and SAT tests have been the most controversial components of the rule, criticized by many educators as racially and culturally biased.

In Philadelphia on Wednesday, a public-interest legal group filed a federal lawsuit accusing the NCAA of discriminating against black athletes by using SAT scores to determine freshman eligibility for sports.

The lawsuit, filed by the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, names Tai Kwan Cureton, a Philadelphia native and runner now attending Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

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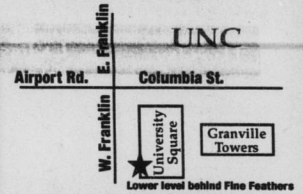
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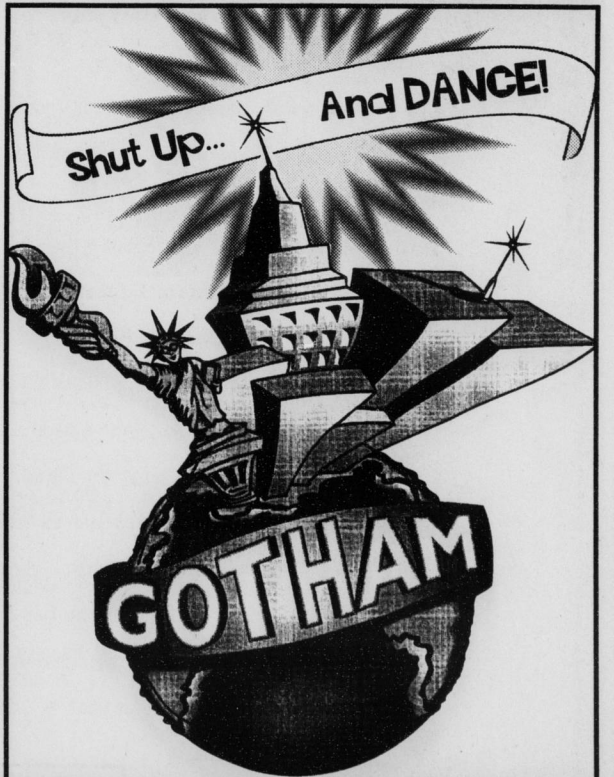
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