

# Mike's Betting Again; So Who Really Cares?

Michael Jordan, the greatest basketball player ever, and his Chicago Bulls opened defense of their NBA championship Wednesday night against the Phoenix Suns.

Compared to recent years, Mike was virtually ignored during much of the regular season due to the outstanding play of the Bulls and New York Knicks. Jordan is back in the spotlight once again for the NBA Finals.

Unfortunately, many members of the media are focusing on Mike's behavior off the court more than his on-court heroics. Jordan's "gambling problem" is in the news again.

During the Eastern Conference Finals, MJ was spotted at an Atlantic City casino the night before a game. More recently, a book came out alleging that Jordan lost more than \$1 million in golf bets to a California man.

My only question is: Who cares? I'm not condoning gambling, but if Michael Jordan wants to blow off some steam at a casino that's his business. If Jordan wants to bet on a golf match that's his business.

Millions of people go to casinos every year. Millions of people bet on golf matches every year. Why should Michael Jordan be held to higher standards? Because he can dunk a basketball?

"Air" Jordan made \$40 million last year. A night at the casino isn't going to put a hurting on his food budget. Mike can afford to miss a few four-foot putts and still get by.

In this case, I think the media has come down especially hard on Jordan because he has refused to speak. The last thing sports writers want right now is a mute Mike during the NBA Finals.

But I think Jordan should continue his silence until these thick-headed writers figure out the real story.

The real story is Jordan the basketball player, Jordan the competitor. Here's a man who has carried the Bulls to two straight championships and given them an excellent chance to three-peat.

Jordan and the Bulls beat those hapless Cleveland Cavaliers again. Jordan and the Bulls won four straight from the Knicks. The real story isn't too hard to figure out.

**Doug Rutter**  
Sports Editor



## Cops On Top

The Shallotte Police Department beat the "Media Airballs" of Wilmington 58-50 in an exhibition basketball game Saturday night in the new Supply Elementary School.

The game was played to raise funds for Hope Harbor Home. This was the third straight year that the police took on a team of radio, television and newspaper personalities from the Port City.

The police squad had lost the two previous years, but posted an easy win Saturday. The cops led by nine at halftime and held a 20-point lead most of the second half before the Airballs made a late run.

The Shallotte Police were somewhat fortunate to win without the services of star guard Keith Croom, who fractured his ankle while practicing two days before the game.

However, the recent addition of Jeff Johnson to the police force (and basketball team) proved to be a good move by Chief Rodney Gause. Johnson led the team in scoring.

Chief Gause also recruited me to play, and I came through with four points as part of the PD's second-string "midget squad." It was a fun night, and the police were elated to finally win.

Wally Ausley, former "Voice of the N.C. State Wolfpack" and current mayor of Holden Beach, did a great job as emcee. Halftime entertainment included several fine performances by students from the Brunswick School of Dance.

## Jennies Branch Closes Gap In Church Softball League

Jennies Branch whipped Zion Baptist 21-6 last week to pull to within one game of first place in the North Division of the Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League.

Jennies Branch entered Tuesday night's play with a 10-2 record, one game behind division leader Mount Olive, which was idle last week and boasts a league-best, 11-1 mark.

Supply Baptist also is closing in on the North Division lead. Supply (10-3) defeated Soldier Bay 18-6 Monday night and was a 20-16 winner over Old Shallotte last Thursday.

In the South Division, Emanuel Outreach and Ocean View remained tied for first place with records of 10-3.

Emanuel Outreach beat Camp Methodist 11-2 last Thursday, and Ocean View edged Calvary Baptist 8-5 Monday night.

In other games last week, Seaside

Methodist beat Calvary 13-9, New Britton pounded Dixon Chapel 29-3 and Friendship Baptist knocked off Shallotte First Baptist 11-6.

**Men's Church Softball Standings Through June 7**

SOUTH DIVISION		
Team	Wins	Losses
Emanuel Outreach	10	3
Ocean View	10	3
Seaside Methodist	7	5
Friendship Baptist	6	6
New Britton	3	8
Soldier Bay	2	9
Old Shallotte	2	10
Zion Baptist	0	8

NORTH DIVISION		
Team	Wins	Losses
Mount Olive	11	1
Jennies Branch	10	2
Supply Baptist	10	3
Calvary Baptist	8	5
Shallotte First	8	5
Letties Grove	5	7
Camp Methodist	3	9
Dixon Chapel	0	11

# This Week In Brunswick Sports

### THURSDAY, JUNE 10

- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Lockwood Folly Township Park: Shallotte First vs. New Britton, 7 p.m.; Camp Methodist vs. Zion Baptist, 8 p.m.; Calvary Baptist vs. Soldier Bay, 9 p.m.
- Brunswick County Post 68 hosts Brunswick Shores Post 445 in American Legion baseball, North Brunswick High School, 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 11

- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Waccamaw Township Park: Ocean View vs. Supply Baptist, 7 p.m.; Zion Baptist vs. Shallotte First, 8 p.m.; Seaside Methodist vs. Letties Grove, 9 p.m.
- Brunswick Shores Post 445 at Beaufort Post 99 in American Legion baseball, East Carteret High School, 7:30 p.m.
- Brunswick County Post 68 hosts Bladenboro Post 268 in American Legion baseball, North Brunswick High School, 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 12

- Waccamaw Volunteer Fire and Rescue Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Brunswick Plantation, Hickmans Crossroads, starting at 8 a.m. For information, call the golf course, 278-7888.
- Brunswick Baptist Association Coed Softball League: Soldier Bay vs. Shell Point, 7 p.m.; Gospel Center-Brunswick Islands vs. Supply, 8 p.m.; Calvary vs. Jennies Branch, 9 p.m., at Lockwood Folly Township Park. Town Creek vs. Faith, 7 p.m.; Southport B vs. Mount Olive, 8 p.m.; Southport A vs. Oak Island-Bethel, 9 p.m., at Smithville Township Park.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 13

- Brunswick County Literacy Council Golf Tournament will be held at Carolina Shores Golf & Country Club, Calabash, starting at 11:30 a.m. For information, call Joe Giamalva, 579-2921.

### MONDAY, JUNE 14

- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Waccamaw Township Park: Emanuel Outreach vs. Dixon Chapel, 7 p.m.; New Britton vs. Camp Methodist, 8 p.m.; Old Shallotte vs. Mount Olive, 9 p.m.
- Brunswick Shores Post 445 at Warsaw Post 127 in American Legion baseball, James Kenan High School, 7:30 p.m.
- Brunswick County Post 68 at Whiteville Post 137 in American Legion baseball, Legion Field, 7:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 15

- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Lockwood Folly Township Park: Jennies Branch vs. Friendship Baptist, 7 p.m.; Calvary Baptist vs. Letties Grove, 8 p.m.; Camp Methodist vs. Shallotte First, 9 p.m.
- Brunswick Shores Post 445 hosts Whiteville Post 137 in American Legion baseball, West Brunswick High School, 7:30 p.m.
- Brunswick County Post 68 hosts Burgaw Post 165 in American Legion baseball, North Brunswick High School, 8 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the *Beacon*. To list a sporting activity call 754-6890 or write to Doug Rutter, *The Brunswick Beacon*, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

## Dodgers Draft Black

North Brunswick senior Adrian Black was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 30th round of last week's Major League Baseball amateur draft.

Black, who played infield and outfield for the Scorpions, hit .367 this spring with three doubles, two home runs and 16 RBI.

Scorpion Coach Wes Coward said Black will probably attend college for a year before he considers entering the pros.

"We've all talked about it and feel like that might help him," Coward said Monday. "I think he re-

alizes there are certain adjustments he'll have to make coming out of high school."

Coward said Black hasn't decided where he will play college ball. "I think some of the scouts are going to work with him on that."

Stephen Mintz, who graduated from North Brunswick in 1987, spent three years in the Dodgers' organization before being released earlier this year.

Mintz later signed with the Boston Red Sox and is currently playing AA ball in New Britain, Conn. The pitcher is 1-1 with a 2.87 ERA.

## IN COED LEAGUE

# Southport Upsets Faith

Southport "A" pulled off a 27-12 upset over Faith Saturday night in Brunswick Baptist Association Coed Softball League play at Smithville Township Park.

Southport "A" improved to 2-6 for the season, while Faith dropped to 5-3 in the Division 2 standings. Division leader Mount Olive remained undefeated with a 23-5 win over Oak Island-Bethel. Town Creek edged Southport "B" 12-11.

In Division 1 action Saturday night in Supply, Calvary and Gospel Center-Brunswick Islands remained tied for first place with records of 6-2.

Calvary defeated Shell Point 25-14, and Gospel Center-Brunswick Islands bombed Soldier Bay 26-0. Supply moved into a tie for third place with a 7-0 win over Jennies Branch.

Baptist Softball League

Standings As Of June 10

DIVISION 1		
Team	Wins	Losses
Calvary	6	2
Gospel-Brunswick	6	2
Shell Point	4	4
Supply	4	4
Jennies Branch	3	5
Soldier Bay	1	7

DIVISION 2		
Team	Wins	Losses
Mount Olive	8	0
Faith	5	3
Town Creek	5	3
Oak Island-Bethel	3	5
Southport "A"	2	6
Southport "B"	1	7

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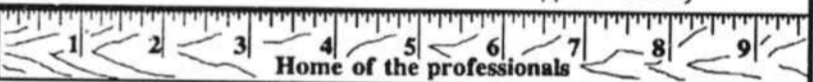
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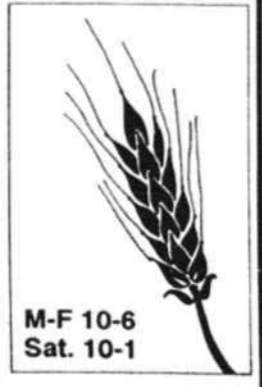
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