

Kilgo On Sports

Now that basketball season is drawing to a close, we can look forward to baseball and forget the court suits and the league-jumping and the contracts that don't seem to be binding. Baseball is not only our national pastime. It's our Happy Hour.

So what if Vida Blue and Charley Finley can't get together! And maybe it is true that attorney Marvin Miller says the major league players are set to strike. And Gussie Busch, the owner of the St. Louis Cardinals and a stable of Budweiser Hoses, says: "Let 'em strike. We don't give a dam." You see, happy days are here again. Padnuh, it's time to throw out that first ball. Big Deal. ***

It's nice that Jack Nicklaus is charitable enough not to play in all of the golf tournaments. With the tour now in Greensboro, it gives the other players a chance to pick up a little change.

Big Jack has never been a true American hero. He isn't exactly a Horatio Alger figure. He grew up in Ohio playing the country clubs and by the time he was 13 he could beat the daylight out of anyone in town.

But while Nicklaus isn't the answer to the American myth, he has to be the greatest golfer of all time. When he comes in second, it's a huge upset. He knocks the ball in the lake off the tee and still makes par look routine. Sentiment urges me to pick Arnold Palmer in this year's Masters. But my brain tells me it'll be Big Jack, all the way. Love him or leave him, he's the greatest. ***

I don't know why but Fla. State coach Hugh Durham reminds me of the Fuller Brush man. . .

"How about coming out to Los Angeles to play us a game of basketball," Mr. Wooden said to young Al. "Certainly," young Al said, "and when will you bring your team to Milwaukee for a return engagement?" "We're not interested in

playing at your place," Mr. Wooden said.

Said young Al: "You must be crazy." ***

This dude Bill Walton of UCLA is an amazing fellow. At 6-11 he jumps like a 6-3 leaper. He is mean but he cries the entire game. He might be the best big man ever. The only hope to wrestle the NCAA crown away from UCLA is to get them slapped on probation. ***

If looking ahead is your game, consider the strength of the ACC next year: Maryland and N. C. State will be the topdogs in the league, unless UNC's Rober McAdoo says no to the pros. Even without McAdoo, North Carolina will be a power. Virginia has Barry Parkhill back, Clemson had its best freshman team ever, and Duke also will have plenty of sophomore talent. It appears that Wake Forest will be the only weak sister in the league. The league champion might well lose five or six games in the conference. ***

Strictly personal: It's a shame that North Carolina and UCLA didn't meet for the national title. That would have been a most interesting match-up. . . If the players don't strike, it ought to be Baltimore and Pittsburg in the World Series again. The surprise team to watch will be the Houston Astros, who made some great trades in the off-season. . . And for professional basketball, I like the Los Angeles Lakers, with Jerry West retiring after accepting the championship trophy. ***

Rumors were rampant at the ACC tournament that George Raveling would be leaving the Maryland basketball staff. . . Maryland ran through the NIT without really having a close game, much the way North Carolina did the trick a year ago. ***

He is a good man whom fortune makes better. -Thomas Fuller.



Some of the 120 students at the Jane McClure School of Dance at the Community Center.

Horse Show April 8

The Kings Mountain Saddle Club is sponsoring the Eighth Annual Kings Mountain Horse Show April 8. Show time will be Saturday afternoon at 1:00 and again at 6:00 p.m. in the evening.

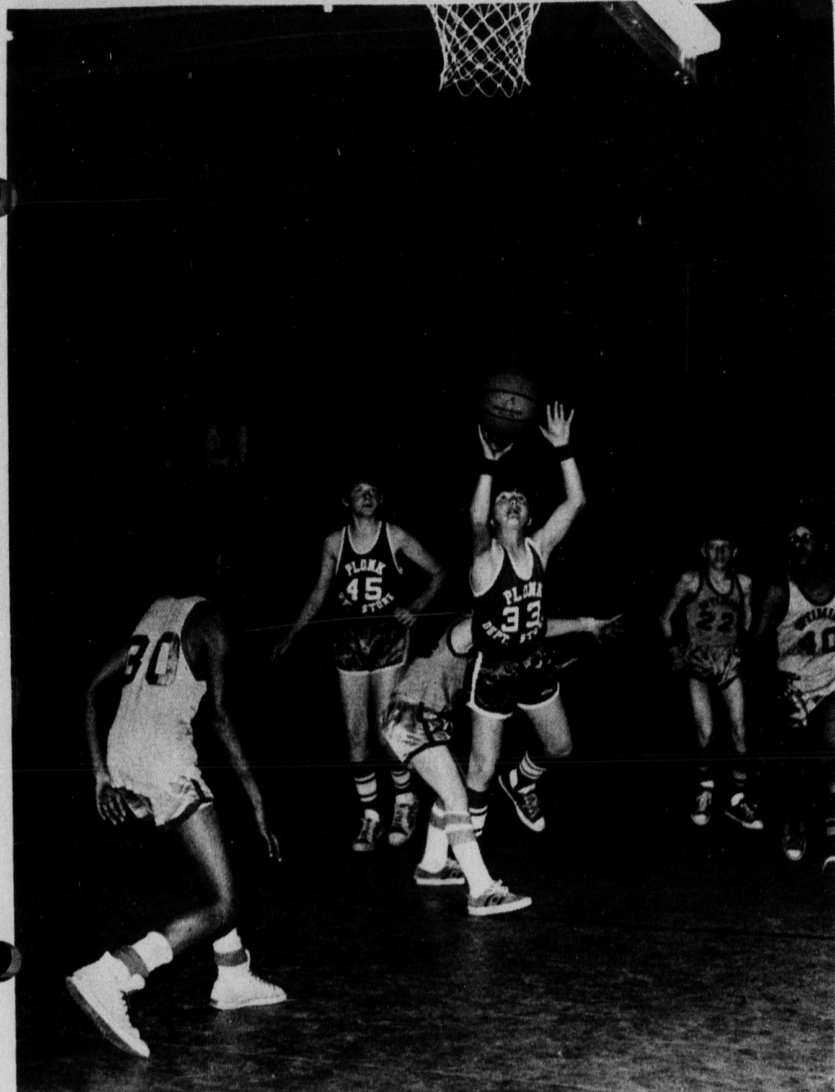
Master of Ceremonies will be H. Panther; Ribbon Marshal, Jim Everhart; Ring Master, Dean Bridges. Judges will be announced.

To get to the Show, go 3 miles out of Kings Mountain on Waco Road near Patterson Grove Church and follow the signs.

George Meany, AFL-CIO President, on Pay Board: "It has been a device to undermine and wreck collective bargaining."

Raymond P. Shafer, Chairman, National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse.

"Legalization would be almost certain to promote further use."



Final Action in Youth League Plonk-Vs-Optomist

BASEBALL

BY PETE FRITCHE

Sarasota, Fla. -- Ralph Houk, talented manager of the once awesome New York Yankees, greatest club in baseball history, thinks the 1972 team has a chance to win the flag. Many observers think the Yanks are still some distance away.

"I think four clubs have a good chance this year," Houk told this reporter, as his team prepared to meet the Chicago White Sox in Payne Park recently (they won). "There's Baltimore and Detroit and after them I think Boston and our club are also in it."

"When does Vida Blue report?" he was asked in jest.

"I have absolutely no comment," Houk smiled.

Bob Fishel, New York public relations director, thinks much depends on Rich McKinney, obtained over the winter from the White Sox in exchange for starting pitcher Stan Bahnsen.

"McKinney, we found out, has a bone chip in his arm and it affects his throwing. We didn't know that when we traded for him but he apparently had it then. The Sox say they didn't know it either. But that's one of our worries." Ron Blomberg is one of the major hitting hopes.

During the game McKinney blasted a pitch over the distant center field wall at Payne Park. "It hasn't af-

fects his hitting," Fishel admitted. Blomberg got three hits.

ONE MINUTE SPORTS QUIZ

1. Four heavyweight boxers have been champions since 1960. Name them.
2. What boxer preceded Patterson as champion?
3. In what year was the first Louis-Walcott fight?
4. Bob Grove won over 20 games in which successive 7 years?
5. Who is the manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates?

Answers to Sports Quiz

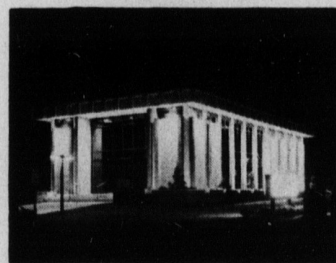
1. Floyd Patterson, Sonny Liston, Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.
2. Ingemar Johansson.
3. 1947, New York.
4. 1927-1933.
5. Bill Virdin.

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