

## Sports

# Fans mourn passing of NBA legend

Sports with the Rash

The sports world received a great loss this month when NBA great Wilt Chamberlain died at the age of 63. Not only did he have a great basketball career, but he performed at a level that will forever place in the company of some of the world's biggest sports legends.

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Even though many of today's NBA fans have never seen Chamberlain's accomplishments, they have undoubtedly heard of them.

Who hasn't heard about the time that Chamberlain scored 100 points by himself against the New York Knicks in 1962? "I spent 12 years in his armpits, and I always carried that 100 point game on my shoulders," Darral Imhoff told the Associated Press in an interview.

That same year he scored 50 points game. He also led the league in assists in 1968 as a center. Even now in some old barbershop, you can hear an old timers talk about Chamberlain taking running starts and dunking his free throws back in his college days with the Kansas 'Jayhawks.'

Putting Chamberlain's accomplishments in the same regards as many of the NBA others legends fails to put Chamberlain career in its proper context. Chamberlain's accomplishments are out of this world and should be placed on the same plateau as Babe Ruth. Maybe even Paul Bunyan.

Chamberlain will probably never hold the same level of public esteem as Michael Jordan. Many of his critics said that his accomplishments were mainly individual. Those same critics also forget to mention that even though Chamberlain won only two championships during his career, many times he played on teams that didn't have nearly as much talent as Bill Russell's great Boston Celtic's teams.

Many African-Americans may never accept Chamberlain because he didn't take on the

hardline civil rights stands that Bill Russell, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Jim Brown and other athletes took. He even admitted that he supported Richard Nixon at one time. "I know some of my brothers in the ghetto won't appreciate me saying this but I think America has handled the racial situation as well we've had," he once said.

Even now, there is a large segment of the population that refuses to let Chamberlain live down his claims that he had sex with over 20,000 women. Many of Chamberlain's friends say those claims were an exaggeration and nothing more than a publicity stunt designed to improve book sales for his autobiography.

Despite Chamberlain's inability (or refusal in some cases) to keep a clean image for mainstream America, many of Chamberlain's friends knew him as generous person who gave to many charities and non-profit organizations.

Said Al Attles, vice-president for the Golden State Warriors and a former teammate and friend Chamberlain's, in a *Sports Illustrated* interview: "I don't think Wilt would ever admit this, but he would try to do things just to get acceptance from other people...So few people took the time to try and appreciate Wilt. Most everybody just assumed that a great player couldn't possibly be a great person."

There is no doubt that Chamberlain was a complex individual. Many of the world's great athletes are. But now that he is gone, the sports world, and the world in general, has a void that may never be filled

## Homecoming Madness

With the WSSU Rams football team in a dog fight with Virginia State for the CIAA conference crown, the Rams' homecoming game against Johnson C. Smith figures to be a very exciting time for everybody involved with the Rams football team.

But according to Rams' football head coach

Kermit Blount, homecoming should be the last thing on the minds of his football team.

"Homecoming is just another game for us," said Blount. "I don't think I've enjoyed a homecoming since I've been head coach."

With the Rams in the hunt for the CIAA championship, Blount expects his players to be in the same mode of thinking. Although the team will continue with its usually round of curfew checks, he doesn't expect the any violations with the season on the line.

"If your going to play football you've got to realize that homecoming isn't key for you," he said. "We the team having to deal with study hall and practice, there's not a lot time left for us to focus on anything else."

## Other Rantings..

A recent report from the *New York Times* revealed that six players out of 120 in the NBA failed their drug testing from the NBA in the first week of October. The NBA is worried because the leaked information compromises the leagues drug testing policy. Players can test positive for marijuana testing two times before they're teams are notified.

The NBA's take on the policy is that this will encourage players to seek help for their problem. But c'mon. If those six NBA players managed dumb enough to get caught the first time around, is there enough help in the world for those guys.

What? Did the players decide to throw it is annual *High Times* weed protest and cancel at the last minute without informing those lone six players? Or is the typical NBA head coach so laughable that the only way to take him seriously is to get real high before practice? If Don Nelson coached you instructions, you'd probably need a little help to.

It all makes you wonder, doesn't it.

## Rams & Lady Rams Basketball Schedules through December

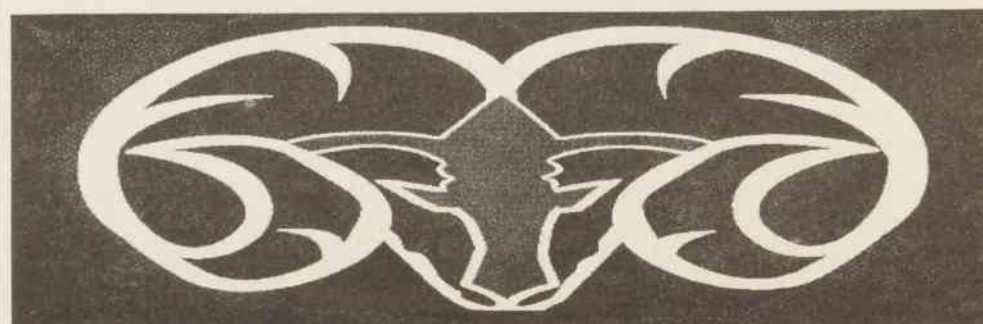
"Meet the Rams" Nov. 7 Winston-Salem, NC TBA	Mars Hill Dec. 3-4 Hill, NC TBA Tournament(W)
2nd Annual Lady Rams Nov. 19-20 Winston-Salem, NC TBA Invitational.	Paine College (W) Dec. 7 Augusta, GA 5:30 p.m.
West Chester(M) Nov. 19-20 West Chester, PA TBA Classic	West Virginia Dec. 9 Winston-Salem, NC 7:00 p.m. Wesleyan Univ. (M)
Virginia Union Nov. 23 Richmond, VA 5:30 & 7:30 p.m	Augusta State(M) Dec. 11 Augusta, GA 7:30 p.m. University
Bowie State Nov. 27 Bowie, MD 2:00 & 4:00 p.m	Elizabeth City State Dec. 18 Winston-Salem, NC 3:00 & 5:00 p.m. University
Lenior Rhyne(W) Dec. 1 Winston-Salem, NC 5:30 p.m. (W)	University of South Carolina Aiken (W) Dec 30 Aiken, SC
Augusta College (M) Dec. 1 Winston-Salem, NC 7:30 p.m.	

## 3 games remain in the 1999 football season

OCT. 30 JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY  
BOWMAN GRAY STADIUM "58TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING"  
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. 2PM

NOV. 6 ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOWMAN GRAY STADIUM "SENIOR NIGHT / RAM FAMILY DAY"  
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. 4PM

NOV.13 GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY QUALCOMM  
STADIUM "GOLD COAST CLASSIC" SAN DIEGO, Calif. 3PM (PST)



Welcome back, alumni, have a great homecoming.