

Sporting Views

By Clifton Barnes

With two fine football coaches, Phil Harris and Shelton Chesson, leaving us it's time we looked to other school systems for mentors. Jim Clack, Pittsburgh Steeler, once told me that when he was here the coaches staff was on par with the pros. Coach Trevathon, Coach Carpenter, where are you now that we need you?

The track team hosted its first track meet in two years a couple of weeks ago. The Thinclads were impressive. We lost. But we finished first on many events. The shot put was putted the farthest by Gryphon Bob Harris. Richard Oxendine, Oie Ostercamp, and Julius Jones ran tremendously in the track events. The number of track men increased from six last year to some 30-odd players this year. Well . . . maybe just 15 of 'em are odd.

Rumors have it that a local school is trying to recruit Gryphon players for football. It is said they are promising the cost to go there. I hope no players go but most of all I hope we don't try to get any of their's.

The tennis and baseball teams are now riding on the bus together to out of town games. There's a little playful poking between the squads when such scholarly things are said as "You Tennis Twinkie," "You Baseball Baby." But when all joking between teams are put aside . . . it's every man for himself.

The girl's softball team has won a few games so far this season. Maybe one reason for the success is the lack of boys. Some girls' team field boys that play the sport. There's nothing wrong with that except they sit on the bench. Some members of the Lady Gryphs say that the boys who play are "flakey."

The quote of the month, even though not a sports quote, has to come from Billy Carroll when he said, "Who cares about apathy." What a quote that would be from Oakland A's owner Charley Finley.

Who's laughing at my NCAA predictions now? Well, they weren't bad. The two Carolina teams, UNC and UNC-C did well just to win the first and second rounds and now look where they ended up. These aren't just two teams from the same state, they're from the same system. Incredible! Spectacular! Tired of hearing about it. Pick one. I pick the latter.



Well it's time for baseball again. The Reds are dead, but the Red Sox should take it all. Here's a look at the way they should (or maybe could) turn out.

AL EAST

- Boston
- New York
- Cleveland
- Baltimore
- Milwaukee
- Detroit
- Toronto

AL WEST

- Kansas City
- California
- Texas
- Oakland
- Chicago
- Minnesota
- Seattle

NL EAST

- Philadelphia
- St. Louis
- Pittsburgh
- New York
- Montreal
- Chicago

NL WEST

- Los Angeles
- Cincinnati
- San Diego
- Atlanta
- San Fran
- Houston

Due to the threat of bodily injury I have reconsidered and am now willing to let Keith King, John Smith, and Robby Noble express their opinions on the NBA champion. Keith says — Los Angeles will win. Impossible. John says Denver will win. They won't. Robby says Philadelphia. I doubt it. I'll stick with the Boston Celtics. How was that guys?



MIKE UPCHURCH STOPS A RUN — Mike, a catcher for the Gryphons prepares himself for a head on collision with a Jacket runner. The Gryphons, led by the pitching of Jess Eberdt and Linden Willis beat Roanoke Rapids 4-0.

Gryphons Open Season

RM vs Garner

The Gryphons opened their baseball season with a narrow victory over the Garner Trojans 4-3.

For the first five innings pitcher Phillip Bunn held off the persistent Trojans before retiring in the fifth to Lee Cooper. Cooper fought off the Trojan rally allowing them to score three runs in the last inning.

The Gryphons' scoring came in the fourth inning. Bob Horne walked and ran to third on Dee Whitley's single. Wendell Wright's fly ball scored Horne and advanced Whitley to third. Champ Saint-Amand got on base by a Trojan error and Whitley scored on a passed ball. Saint-Amand stole third and scored on Mike Matthews' grounder.

The Gryphons scored another run in the fifth. The Gryphons scored another run when Linwood Silver had an infield hit and then stole second and went to third when a throw got away from the shortstop. Silver then scored on Jake Lassiter's grounder to the second baseman.

That was all the scoring for the Gryphs and was all they needed as they held off the Trojans for three runs in the last two innings.

RM vs Roanoke Rapids

Jess Eberdt and Linden Willis teamed to pitch the Gryphs to a 4-0 victory and their second win against Roanoke Rapids.

Eberdt opened on the mound for the Gryphs and held Roanoke Rapids to one hit in four innings. Willis finished

with three scoreless innings as he allowed only two hits.

The Gryphons only had five hits, but it was enough as the Jackets gave up several walks and a few errors.

Linwood Silver opened the first inning by walking and stealing his way to third base. Then Jake Lassiter was walked, and he also stole second base. Billy Luther then squeezed a bunt to the right side of the infield that scored Silver. Lassiter took third on a passed ball and scored when Mike Upchurch's grounder was booted by the Jacket's shortstop. Upchurch advanced to second when a pitch struck Wendell Wright and scored on Dee Whitley's single to right field. In the second inning the Gryphs scored their final run. Greg Clark reached base on an error by the first baseman and scored on Lassiter's single.

In the third game of the season the Garner Trojans gained revenge from Rocky Mount by the score of 5-3.

The Trojans knocked 11 hits off Gryphon pitchers Phillip Bunn and Lee Cooper, including

three-hits and two triples by shortstop Ronnie Lee.

RM vs Garner

Garner opened the scoring in the third inning off Bunn. Larry Newsome was walked and then scored off Lee's triple. Bunn then walked David Boyette, who stole second. Greg Baker hit a single allowing Lee and Boyette to score for a 3-0 lead.

Coach Jerry Carter then yanked Bunn and substituted Lee Cooper.

In the fifth inning the Trojans kept the pressure on as Lee hit his second triple of the game and then scored on Boyette's single. Williams hit advanced Boyette to third and Chris Moore got the fourth hit of the inning that scored Eryette to end Garner's scoring at 5-0.

The sixth inning saw Gene Clark, Billy Luther, and Mike Upchurch each get a hit scoring Clark. Bob Horne then walked. Mike Mathews then stepped to the plate with the bases loaded. Mathews singled to score Luther, and Upchurch, to make the final score 5-3. The Gryphons were unable to get a hit in the last inning.

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