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**NATIVE AMERICAN EXAMINES SPORTS
HERITAGE OF INDIANS IN NEW BOOK
JOE OXENDINE TO BE AT PSU FOR BOOK SIGNING**



A Temple University professor who grew up in a segregated Indian community in North Carolina has written a book about Native American sports heroes because the youngsters he met at a South Dakota reservation "had no dreams."

After the 1973 siege at Wounded Knee, the Federal Government asked Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine and several other prominent Native Americans to help reduce tensions by holding a workshop on recreation and sports at Pine Ridge Reservation.

"The young people there had no aspirations to do anything," recalls Dr. Oxendine, a Lumbee Indian who spent his youth in Robeson County, N.C. where two Tuscarora Indians recently seized a newspaper to protest racial injustice.

"The youngsters on the reservation had just given up. It was a hopeless, depressing situation. Even those with real athletic talent had no dreams of going on. I saw good runners, good basketball players who could have succeeded at the college level, but they had no ambitions.

"And those who did go on to college or into advanced amateur or professional sports most often 'dropped out' to return to the reservation," he says.

Fifteen years after his visit to Pine Ridge, and after administrative duty as a department chairman and then Dean of Temple's College of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Dr. Oxendine has published *American Indian Sports Heritage [Human Kinetics]*.

"It's a book about a rich tradition—such 'greats' as the legendary Jim Thorpe, Olympic champion runner Billy Mills, baseball player Allie Reynolds, and other Native Americans who have excelled in athletics.

"After the Pine Ridge workshop, I was convinced that Indian sports heroes, past and present, could serve as role models that might help promote pride, ambition, and hope among young Native American.

"Developing a greater awareness of the strong Indian sports tradition might also contribute to a sense of community pride," he says.

But at least half of the book offers an historical perspective of sports among American Indians, including the strong connection between athletics and other social, spiritual, and economic aspects of daily Indian life.

"In traditional American Indian life, sports were steeped in tradition, in ritual, in ceremony," Dr. Oxendine says. "A major sporting event in lacrosse or foot racing captivated the total community to a greater extent than the Super Bowl or World Series does today."

As the Temple professor explains, he began writing his new book to "try to do something about the morale of young Native Americans. But I soon became equally fascinated by the importance of sports as a cultural force in the traditional Indian community."

In his book, Dr. Oxendine cites one tradition in Indian life that's in marked contrast to the way most Americans view athletics.

"In traditional Indian sports, no single individual was given full authority or responsibility for providing leadership and direction of the team," he points out. "In the non-Indian community, one individual usually serves as the brains and the voice of the whole team.

"All members on an Indian team assumed personal responsibility for the welfare of the team, which was consistent with traditional Indian forms of government that involved the ideas and deliberations of all members of the community.

"Such sharing of authority and leadership seems inconceivable, for example, on a modern football team—players who try to share ideas with the quarterback are often viewed as troublesome to the team's progress...The tendency of Indians to resent excessive displays of authority by coaches,

managers, or team captains has continued to the present day."

Dr. Oxendine says that many Indians who played for Coach Glenn "Pop" Warner at the Carlisle (Pa.) Indian School from 1899 to 1914 resented and criticized the great man's authoritarian rule.

And John McGraw, the tough and demanding manager of the New York Giants during the first two decades of this century, "was clearly ineffective with Jim Thorpe."

In addition to publishing his book, Dr. Oxendine has paid close attention to the recent events near his hometown of Pembroke in Robeson County, NC, where two Indians held employees at a newspaper hostage for 10 hours before surrendering to the FBI.

"Taking innocent hostages is unacceptable under any circumstances," says the Temple professor, who never saw a white student or a black student in his segregated classrooms when he was growing up.

"But I can understand what drove them to such an act. Their lack of confidence in local authorities and general frustration with the legal system had deteriorated to the point of desperation."

**JACKSON MEETS WITH
CITIZENS**



Democratic hopeful Jesse Jackson in a campaign trip to racially-torn Robeson County on Monday brought a message to about 75 people who met in Pembroke to discuss racial injustices affecting the county's minorities.

"It's no good to keep recycling yesterday's pain," Jackson said. "You must break the cycle and go on to a higher relationship in Robeson County. Blacks, whites and Indians must live together. You must find a common ground."

To the tri-racial audience gathered at The Gathering Place, a town meeting center on Main Street, Jackson previewed themes of economic justice, curtailment of drugs coming into the county, salvaging American jobs and comparable worth and stabilization of the American family.

Jackson's stop in Pembroke was at the request of several organizations concerned with longtime racial oppression throughout Robeson County.

Representatives from Concerned Citizens for Better Government, the Robeson County Justice Committee and Families of Victims of unsolved murders in Robeson County attended the 45-minute meeting.

John Godwin, an organizer of the Concerned Citizens group, gave a history of events that led to their founding—the unsolved murder of a Black St. Pauls woman on October 31, 1985, followed a year later by the killing of Jimmy Earl Cummings, a Fairmont Indian by a deputy sheriff.

Jackson listened intently as Godwin told of the Jan. 12 death of Bobby McKellar, a young Black asthmatic that Godwin said died the Robeson County jail "begging for his medicine."

Jackson refused to give his opinion on whether he thought Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs were justified in their Feb. 1 take-over of The Robesonian to bring attention to their charge of corruption in the county's criminal justice system.

He said he did not wish to address tactics—just to the pain. Jackson would not say whether he thought Hatcher and Jacobs, who have twice been refused release from jail on bond, should be released.

"I don't want to make a judgment, because I don't have all the facts," Jackson said.

People should quickly move from confrontation to negotiation to reduce tension."

Jackson talked with Hatcher and Jacobs by telephone before leaving for his second appearance at Pembroke State University where he spoke to an audience of about 1,500 at PSU's Performing Arts Center.

PROS AND CONS OF MERGER

DISCUSSED AT PSU

The pros and cons of Robeson County School merger were addressed Monday night by Darrell Spencer, assistant state supervisor of the Division of Public Planning for the NC Department of Education and Gene Causby, executive director of the NC School Board Association.

About 400 people at Pembroke State University's Performing Arts Center listened as the two state officials spoke on the issue of school merger.

"I have not found a situation in NC where merger would not be beneficial to both students and people," Spencer said. He showed the audience tax increases and the ideal school populations and six proposed high school locations. He suggested high schools in St. Pauls, Lumberton, Fairmont and Parkton, and keeping South and West Robeson schools.

Causby rolled off a list of most-often-heard arguments for and against merger. He said there is no conclusive evidence that there is an ideal school population and that it is not possible to predict a future tax rate to support a future school system.

Both men said they believe a merger should be decided by county voters. After years of debate, school merger will be decided March 6 when county residents have a chance to a public vote.

The issue remains complex. In a state where many counties are debating the best way to merge two school systems, Robeson County is wrestling with five—the county unit and city systems in Lumberton, St. Pauls, Fairmont and Red Springs. Thus far, only the county unit and Fairmont city system have endorsed merger.

About a dozen people carried pro-merger signs to the forum sponsored by the Lumberton-Robeson Area Chamber of Commerce and nobody carried anti-merger signs.

The subject of merger has held the public's attention since last year when the County Board of Commissioners voted to call for the referendum.

"There are groups that are very vocally opposed to merger," said local businessman Eric Prevatte, a leader of the county's merger supporters. "And there's many of us who are for it." Purnell Swett, superintendent of the county school system said, "School merger in the county is a vehicle for economic growth and the development of our human resources.

Those who cast their vote in support of school merger will cast a vote for improving the quality of life for all Robesonians."

He further stated, "School merger should not be debated on emotional, racism, or sectionalism. Rather, it should be a decision made by the citizenry and the leadership to adopt a plan of action which will minimize the kind of quality of education difference which exist within five separate school districts and to maximize the efficiency of the public schools and the utilization of available financial resource."

Merger proponents say race is still a reason the systems are kept separate. Lumberton City Schools, where the merger is generally opposed, has a student enrollment nearly 50 percent white in a county where whites make up less than a quarter of the student population.

The N.C. General Assembly last year passed a bill to merge the county's school systems, subject to a referendum and appointed a 15-member interim Board of Education for the merged system.

If the referendum passes, the interim board will take office April 1 and hire and interim superintendent for the new system.

**GOV. MARTIN RECEIVES
SUPER BOWL PRINT**



Governor James Martin, left receives Gene Locklear's print from Dr. Bobby D. Brayboy in recent ceremonies at the governor's Raleigh office.

During a recent ceremony in Raleigh, NC, Dr. Bobby D. Brayboy, a Lumbee Indian and Robeson County native, presented a Gene Locklear print to Governor James Martin.

The print, a copy of an original work commissioned by San Diego Super Bowl XXII Task Force depicts professional football personalities and historical landmarks surrounding San Diego.

Locklear, a Pembroke native whose ten years as a professional baseball player brought him to the attention of millions of American sports fans again achieved national recognition as a professional artist last year when he was named exclusive artist to paint San Diego Super Bowl XXII Host Logo.

Locklear, a Lumbee Indian, resides in San Diego with his wife, Susan.

FUND RAISER PLANNED

FOR JULIAN PIERCE

A fund-raising event is planned for Julian T. Pierce, Candidate for Superior Court Judge. The event will be held March 7, 1988 at 7 p.m. at Sheff's Seafood Restaurant in Pembroke. There will be guest speakers and entertainment. The price is \$50 per person. A Seafood buffet will be served.

**BUSINESS
BRIEFS**

Eric Locklear, Financial Aid Officer at Randolph Community College in Asheboro, North Carolina has accepted the position of Assistant Director of Financial Aid at North Carolina State University in Raleigh effective March 7, 1988.

While at NCSU, Mr. Locklear will be responsible for the packaging and administration of assistance to approximately 2500 students. He will also co-administer the College Work Study Program of the campus, a campus of 24,000 students. Mr. Locklear will report to the Director of Financial Aid whose office operates under the direction of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

Mr. Locklear's previous experience in the field of Financial Aid includes the administration of or assistance with the administration of the Financial Aid Offices at Guilford College (a private four-year Liberal Arts Institution) and Randolph Community College (a member of the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges System).

I feel that this move to a major public four-year institution will greatly enrich my professional growth and will serve to help me develop as an individual."

Eric is the son of Mrs. Peggy Jean Jacobs Locklear. He is a 1982 graduate of Pembroke Senior High School. He is a 1986 graduate of Guilford College having a BS in Political Science and a BA in English. While at Guilford, Eric was a Dana Scholar, a recipient of the Guilford College Office of Student Services Excellence in Student Leadership Award; and Who's Who Among Students of American Universities and Colleges.

While at NCSU, Eric will be pursuing his Master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Oak Ridge High School sophomore Paula Wynn, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is polishing her voice for competition in the 1988 Miss Tennessee U.S. Teen pageant set for April 30, 1988 in Nashville, Tennessee.

The 16-year-old will be sponsored in the pageant by The Oak Ridge and Mieros to Go, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

"I wanted to see if I could make it. And I did," said Wynn. "I was really surprised." Miss Wynn is the daughter of Thomas and Betty Wynn of 584 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN, formerly from Lumberton, North Carolina.

She was selected after an application process that included a list of hobbies, a statement of ambition and a picture.

Miss Wynn said she aspires to be a contemporary vocal performer, and is being coached for the pageant by Vanessa Stitt, a lead singer at the Christian Outreach Center in Oak Ridge.

Miss Wynn said she prefers contemporary gospel music, and has been a featured singer at churches, banquets, and other social events. She has chosen the hymn "We Shall Behold Him," because it will feature her mezzo-soprano voice.

"It's got a good range variety. It starts out slow and builds up," she said.

A self-trained vocalist, Miss Wynn said her only formal training has been as a member of the choir at her junior high school for three years.

Currently, Miss Wynn is a member of Students Against Drunk Driving, the Southeastern Consortium for Minority Engineers, a member of Student Council, and she is the president of the youth organization, Reachout, at her church.

An honor student, she has been active in school and city competitions. She was honored in 1986 by SECME for having the highest scholastic grade point average, she also received a trophy in 1987 for maintaining a 3.8 grade point average. Miss Wynn was the first place winner in the 1987 Fine Arts Festival, sponsored by the Assemblies of God.

Miss Wynn participated in a travel program to Italy in 1985, and was also selected to participate in an Outward Bound course to the Great Smokey Mountains, sponsored by the Outward Bound Organization and the Board of Education.

Miss Wynn plans to study music and engineering at Duke University and says if she wins the pageant, the \$5,000 cash scholarship will go toward tuition.

**BROKEN RAINBOW TO BE
PRESENTED IN DURHAM**

The Native American Solidarity Group (formerly the NC Leonard Peltier Committee) will be sponsoring a benefit showing of the Academy Award winning film **BROKEN RAINBOW** Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 pm at the Carolina Theater, Durham. This will be a Triangle Premiere.

Tickets will be \$4.00. Children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult.

The proceeds go to the Defense Fund for Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs, Tuscarora Indians who are in prison for their recent actions to draw attention to con litations for Indians and Blacks in Robeson County.

BROKEN RAINBOW's full-length movie, deals with the forced relocation of Navajo and Hopi Indians taking place in Arizona.

The film speaks for all Native people who are struggling to survive as individuals and as separate cultures in the face of insensitive development. It is an appeal from the Earth herself, as it has become impossible to separate environmental issues from Native American survival.

These problems are on a local, national and international level. Our hope is to network together to bring about awareness and change.